FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

PART: 1 OF 4

FILE NUMBER: HQ 157-2466

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

COVER SHEET

SUBJECT:

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

PART 1 OF 4

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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C 20535

Subject of Request: **Deacons for Defense and Justice**

FOIPA NO.

Dear Requester:

Enclosed are copies of documents from FBI records. Excisions have been made to protect information exempt from disclosure pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 (Freedom of Information Act) and/or Section 552a (Privacy Act). In addition, where excisions were made, the appropriate exempting subsections have been cited opposite the deletions. Where pages have been withheld in their entirety, a deleted page information sheet has been substituted showing the reasons or basis for the deletion. The subsections cited for withholding information from the enclosed documents are marked below:

Section 552	Section 552a	
☒ (b)(1)	☐ (b)(7)(A)	☐ (d)(5)
☐ (b)(2)	☐ (b)(7)(B)	☐ (j)(2)
☐ (b)(3)	☒ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
☐ (b)(4)	☒ (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
☐ (b)(5)	☒ (b)(7)(E)	☐ (k)(3)
☐ (b)(6)	☐ (b)(7)(F)	☐ (k)(4)
	☐ (b)(8)	☐ (k)(5)
	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
		☐ (k)(7)

(See Form OPCA-16a, enclosed, for an explanation of these exemptions.)

Pursuant to your request, **1580** preprocessed pages are being released.

The documents responsive to your request were previously processed for another requester. In order to provide the information you requested as soon as possible, we have released the FBI information as it was originally processed. We have not contacted other government agencies concerning their information in FBI files.

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 1-6-65

We are disseminating this information to the Civil Rights Division of the Department.

AJD

NCS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gal/jt

DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☒ RADIO ☐ TELETYPE

R-75
URGENT 1-6-65
TO DIRECTOR
FROM NEW ORLEANS 061952

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, JONESBORO LOUISIANA, PERCY LEE BRADFORD, PRESIDENT, ~~RM.~~ RACIAL MATTER

[redacted] JONESBORO LOUISIANA ADVISED THAT CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN ORGANIZED IN JACKSON PARISH AT JONESBORO LOUISIANA AND THAT IT HAS FOR ITS PURPOSES MUCH THE SAME AS THOSE OF THE CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY (CORE) BUT THAT CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION IS MORE MILITANT THAN CORE AND THAT IT WOULD BE MORE INCLINED TO USE VIOLENCE IN DEALING WITH ANY VIOLENT OPPOSITION ENCOUNTERED IN CIVIL RIGHTS MATTERS. CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION HAS NIGHT PATROLS IN THE NEGRO SECTIONS OF JONESBORO AND [redacted] BELIEVES THAT THESE NIGHT PATROLS ARE ARMED.

~~THIS~~ FOLLOWS.

RECEIVED: 3:57 PM RDR

MCT-21 2466-

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2 JAN 12 1965

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

FBI

Date: 1/6/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-New)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-New)

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE OF JUSTICE,
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA,
PERCY LEE BRADFORD, PRESIDENT
RM

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight (8) copies of LHM re captioned matter.

(3) - Bureau (Enc. 8)
2 - New Orleans
EC/mcd
(5)

REC 8

1 JAN 12 1965

Agency G-2, ONI, OSI, CRD, SS, CIA

Date Forw. JAN 8 1965

How Forw. B-5

By

Room 828 RB

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1

Approved _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

JAN 18 1965

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
January 6, 1964

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE OF JUSTICE,
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA,
PERCY LEE BRADFORD, PRESIDENT

[redacted] Jonesboro, Louisiana, advised January 5, 1965 that an organization known as Deacons for Defense of Justice, with Percy Lee Bradford, Negro male, age about 44, as president, has been organized at Jonesboro, Louisiana. He stated that this organization was organized to promote Negroes' civil rights and that its purposes were much the same as those of CORE. He stated that whereas CORE is completely non-violent in its methods of dealing with civil rights matters, Deacons for Defense of Justice would be more militant and inclined to use violence in dealing with any violent opposition encountered. He stated that Deacons for Defense of Justice has night patrols in the Negro sections of Jonesboro and he feels that these night patrols are armed.

[redacted] advised this organization was a non-violent Negro movement organized exclusively within Jackson Parish, Louisiana. He stated its purpose was to promote justice for the Negro and followed the same principals as laid down by the CORE except its members would, if attacked, defend themselves by use of force.

He said this organization has two citizens band radios and walkie talkies used to communicate with one another in case violence against the Negro is initiated in Jackson Parish. He said there was between 250 and 300 members within the parish and they

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DATE 7-16-90 BY SP1 gal/j

ENCLOSURE 2

did not carry arms at any time. He advised the followin individuals were leaders of the Deacons for Defense of Justice:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Fiance Secretary
Group Leaders

Percy Lee Bradford & APPROX.
Henry Amos

[redacted]

b7c

[redacted] and [redacted] advised January 6, 1965 that they were aware of Negro patrols in the Jonesboro area but that no incidents had arisen from those patrols.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
FEB 23 1965

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

X

FBI WASH DC

157-2466

491

FBI NEW ORLS

8:46 PM CST URGENT 2-23-65 RJS

TO DIRECTOR

FROM NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, JONESBORO, LOUISIANA, PERCY LEE BRADFORD; RM.

[redacted]

ADVISED FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING CAPTIONED MATTER:

[redacted] STATED THAT IT WAS LEARNED THAT ON THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY TWENTY ONE, LAST, SIX CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY, PAREN CORE END PAREN, MEMBERS APPEARED AT BOGALUSA, AT [redacted] WHICH TIME THEY HELD A MEETING AT THE NEGROES LABOR HALL. THIS MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY SEVERAL BOGALUSA NEGRO LEADERS, [redacted]

b7C
b7D

REC-2 157-2466-3

[redacted]

5 MAR 3 1965

END PAGE ONE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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67 MAR 5 1965

PAGE TWO

[redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS AN ORGANIZATION NOW BEING PUT TOGETHER IN LOUISIANA KNOWN AS THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE. PAREN DDJ END PAREN. [redacted] THE MAIN SPEAKER OF THE EVENING WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN ERNEST THOMAS WHO DISCUSSED THE FACT THAT MEMBERSHIP IN THE DDJ, PAREN STRICTLY NEGRO END PAREN, WOULD COST TEN DOLLARS INITIATION FEE AND TWO DOLLARS PER MONTH. TEN PERCENT OF THE MONIES OBTAINED [redacted] THE LOCAL CHAPTERS WOULD BE CHANELLED INTO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE STATE ORGANIZATION WHICH IS NOW BELIEVED TO BE AT JONESBORO, LOUISIANA.

IT WAS EXPLAINED, THE PURPOSE OF THE MONEY WAS TO BUY RADIO EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING WALKY DASH TALKIES, CITIZENS BAND EQUIPMENT, FOR AUTOMOBILES, AS WELL AS AMMUNITION, LITERATURE, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT NOT IDENTIFIED. DISCUSSED IN CONSIDERABLE LENGTH WAS THE PUTTING OF MOBIL CITIZENS BAND RADIOS INTO AUTOMOBILES

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

OF NEGRO MEMBERS, PRINCIPALLY IN BOGALUSA. IT WAS REPORTED THAT THOMAS WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THE DDJ INTENDED TO ESTABLISH A CODE SYSTEM WHEREBY A STATE WIDE COMMUNICATIONS SET UP COULD BE CREATED, IN ORDER THAT, IF NEGROES IN ONE COMMUNITY HAVE DIFFICULTY, THE

FB

NEGROES COULD IMMEDIATELY CALL ON THE RADIO FOR ASSISTANCE AND GET ASSISTANCE. THOMAS TALKED AT LENGTH ABOUT THE USE AND ADVANTAGES OF WALKIE DASH TALKIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR COMMUNICATION PURPOSES.

THOMAS THEN DISCUSSED A TENDENCY ON THE PART OF NEGROES TO BUY CHEAP WEAPONS LIKE A TWENTY TWO CALIBER. THOMAS POINTED OUT THAT NEGORES SHOULD BUY SUBSTANTIAL WEAPONS INCLUDING A THREE ZERO SIX CALIBER RIFLE. THOMAS SUGGESTED THAT TWELVE OR SIXTEEN GAGE SHOTGUNS WERE GOOD FOR QUOTE CLOSE IN WORK UNQUOTE. THOMAS SAID THAT IF STANDARDIZED GAGES WERE OBTAINED THE NEGROES IN COMMUNITIES COULD BUY SHELLS BY THE CASE. THOMAS SAID THAT NEGROES SHOULD KEEP PLENTY OF AMMUNITION IN THEIR CARS, IN THEIR HOMES, AS THEY NEVER KNEW WHEN THEY WOULD NEED THE AMMUNITION AND THEY WERE TO BE EXPECTED TO BE READY

END PAGE THREE

WHENEVER THEY WERE CALLED UPON.

THOMAS SAID THAT HIS GROUP HAS CONTACTS IN CHICAGO AND HOUSTON FOR AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND MENTIONED A FIFTY CALIBER AND [illegible]Y CALIBER MACHINE GUN.

THOMAS STATED, REFERRING TO THE KU KLUX KLAN AND WHITE PEOPLE GENERALLY, THAT IF KKK OR WHITE PEOPLE WANTED VIOLENCE, THAT QUOTE THEY INTENDED TO COMBAT VIOLENCE WITH VIOLENCE; THAT THEY HAD NO INTENTION OF STARTING ANYTHING THEMSELVES BUT WANTED TO BE [illegible]READY UNQUOTE.

THOMAS DISCUSSED AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH THE ADVANTAGES OF HAVING ROVING PATROLS IN THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES SO THAT SHOULD ANY NEGRO BE ARRESTED BY A POLICE OFFICER, THAT THE [illegible]OVING PATROL AS WITNESSES TO ANY ARREST, COULD IMMEDIATELY DEFEND THE POSITION OF THE ARRESTED PERSON. THOMAS SAID THAT IF POLICE OFFICERS SEE NEGROES WHO ARE ARMED AS THE POLICE ARE, THE POLICE COULD BE EXPECTED TO PROBABLY BACK AWAY AND NOT AFFECT THE ARREST OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

THOMAS DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP, IF THEY SHOULD JION, TO GET TOGETHER WITH THEIR NEGRO LEADERS, THE PREACHERS, SCHOOL TEACHERS, AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE PERSONS, AND

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

REACH TO AND EMPHASIZE TO THESE LEADER THAT IF THESE LEADERS DO NOT GO ALONG WITH THIS ACTIVITY THAT THEY WERE NOT FIT IN THE FIRST PLACE. THOMAS POINTED OUT IF THE LOCAL MEMBERS IF THE DDJ WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL IN WORKING ON NEGRO LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITY AND CONVINCING THEM THAT THEY, REFERRING TO CORE, WOULD DO IT FOR THEM.

A FURTHER MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE DDJ IS SCHEDULED AT BOGALUSA ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY TWENTY EIGHT, SIXTY FIVE, AND ALL PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS WERE REQUESTED TO BRING MONEY, DUES, AND INITIATION FEES.

[redacted] ADVISED THAT BASED UPON THIS INFORMATION THE BOGALUSA CITY ADMINISTRATION FELT THAT THE DDJ WOULD NOT BE TOO SUCCESSFUL FROM THE STAND POINT OF MEMBERSHIP AND DUES BUT WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES DISCUSSIONS OF THIS TYPE WOULD HAVE AMONG THE NEGRO POPULATION IN THE BOGALUSA COMMUNITY.

b7C
b7D

ON THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY TWENTY TWO, SIXTYFIVE, IT WAS REPORTED THAT ROBERT HICKS, A NEGRO LEADER IN BOGALUSA AND ACTIVE IN CORE WORK SPOKE BEFORE THE BOGALUSA VOTERS LEAGUE AT A

END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

MEETING CALLED TO LEND SUPPORT TO THE BOGALUSA NEGRO

COMMUNITIES COOPERATION WITH THE CITY ADMINISTRATION. HICKS

DISCUSSED AT GREAT LENGTH THE DDJ INFORMATION AS

DISCUSSED THE PREVIOUS EVENING BY ERNEST THOMAS. HICKS POINTED

OUT TO THE PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE WHO WERE MOSTLY TEENAGE CHILDREN,

THE ADVANTAGES OF ARMING THEMSELVES AND DISCUSSED HAND GRENADES,

WALKIE DASH TALKIES, AND EXPLAINED GENERALLY WHAT WAS

STATED THE PREVIOUS NIGHT BY ERNEST THOMAS.

HICKS WENT INTO GREAT DETAIL CONCERNING HOW YOUNG NEGROES

COULD DEFEND THEMSELVES BY CONVERGING ON POLICE OFFICERS IF THE

POLICE WERE TRYING TO ARREST NEGROES AND CAUSE DIFFICULTY AT

THE TIME OF THE ARREST AND PREVENT THE NEGRO FROM BEING

ARRESTED.

SECRET SERVICE, NEW ORLEANS, AND INTELLIGENCE CORPS GROUP,

NEW ORLEANS, ARE BEING ADVISED. LHM FOLLOWS.

END.

~~CORR PAGE TWO LINE THREE WORD EIGHT SHD BE UNIDENTIFIED~~

~~PAGE~~ THREE LINE ~~FIVE OMIT~~ LETTERS FB

~~PAGE~~ THREE LINE NINE WORD SHD BE DISCUSSED

~~PAGE~~ FOUR LINE NINE~~TEEN~~ WORD THREE SHD BE JOIN

END AND ACK PLS

WA..RPP

FBI WASH DC

TAL LRP

FBI

Date: 2/24/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Carper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, JONESBORO, LOUISIANA, PERCY LEE BRADFORD
RM

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are eight copies of letterhead memorandum concerning captioned matter, two copies for Houston, and two copies for Chicago. Copies have also been forwarded to ICG and Secret Service, New Orleans.

Source mentioned in letterhead memorandum is [redacted]

b7C
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CHICAGO AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Through established sources, informants, and gun outlets, determine whether or not any shipments of guns are being made to the Jonesboro, Bogalusa, or New Orleans area.

HOUSTON DIVISION AT HOUSTON, TEXAS

Cover same lead as set forth for Chicago Division.

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau (Enc. 8)
2 - Houston (Enc. 2)
2 - Chicago (Enc. 2)
2 - New Orleans (1 - 157-3290)
(1 - 173-201)

JTS/mrk
(9)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gal/jp

1 cc dept
Man-Date Group Cat.

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC SER
DEPT ISD, CRD
DATE FORW: 3-1-65
HOW FORW: Mailing Slip
BY: EH

E. C. Wick

REC-28 157-[illegible]-4

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

66 MAR 9

MAR 3 1965

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
February 24, 1965

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE

On February 22, 1965, a confidential source advised the following information concerning the captioned matter:

Source stated that it was learned that on the night of February 21, 1965, six Congress Of Racial Equality (CORE) members appeared at Bogalusa, at which time they held a meeting at the Negroes Labor Hall. This meeting was attended by several Bogalusa Negroleaders, [redacted] b7 b7

[redacted]

Source reported the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss an organization now being put together in Louisiana known as the Deacons for Defense and Justice (DDJ). The main speaker of the evening was believed to have been Ernest Thomas who discussed the fact that membership in the DDJ (strictly Negro) would cost $10 initiation fee and $2 per month. Ten per cent of the monies obtained from the local chapters would be chanelled into the headquarters of the state organization which is now believed to be at Jonesboro, Louisiana.

It was explained the purpose of the money was to buy radio equipment, including walkie-talkies, citizens band equipment for automobiles as well as ammunition, literature, and other equipment not identified. Discussed in considerable length was the putting of mobile citizens band radios into

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DATE 7-16-82 BY SP1 gal/lr

ENCLOSURE

automobiles of Negro members, principally in Bogalusa. It was reported that Thomas went on to explain the DDJ intended to establish a code system whereby a state-wide communications set up could be created in order that, if Negroes in one community have difficulty, the Negroes could immediately call on the radio for assistance and get assistance. Thomas talked at length about the use and advantages of walkie-talkies and equipment for communication purposes.

Thomas then discussed a tendency on the part of Negroes to buy cheap weapons like a .22 caliber. Thomas pointed out that Negroes should buy substantial weapons, including a .306 caliber rifle. Thomas suggested that 12 or 16 gage shotguns were good for "close in work." Thomas said that if standardized gages were obtained, the Negroes in communities could buy shells by the case. Thomas said that Negroes should keep plenty of ammunition in their cars, in their homes, as they never knew when they would need the ammunition, and they were to be expected to be ready whenever they were called upon.

Thomas said that his group has contacts in Chicago and Houston for automatic weapons and mentioned a .50 caliber and .30 caliber machine gun.

Thomas stated, referring to the Ku Klux Klan and white people generally, that if the Ku Klux Klan or white people wanted violence, that "they intended to combat violence with violence; that they had no intention of starting anything themselves but wanted to be ready."

Thomas discussed at considerable length the advantages of having roving Negro patrols in the various communities so that should any Negro be arrested by a police officer, that the roving patrol, as witnesses to any arrest, could immediately defend the position of the arrested person. Thomas said that if police officers see Negroes who are armed as the police are, the police could be expected to probably back away and not affect the arrest of the individual.

Thomas discussed the need for members of this group, if they should join, to get together with their Negro leaders, the preachers, school teachers, and other responsible persons, and preach to and emphasize to their leaders that if their

leaders do not go along with this activity, that they were not fit in the first place. Thomas pointed out if the local members of the DDJ were not successful in working on Negro leaders in the community and convincing them that they, referring to CORE, would do it for them.

A further membership meeting of the DDJ is scheduled at Bogalusa on Sunday, February 28, 1965, and all prospective members were requested to bring money, dues, and initiation fees.

Source advised that based upon this information, the Bogalusa City Administration felt that the DDJ would not be too successful from the stand point of membership and dues but were concerned about the difficulties discussions of this type would have among the Negro population in the Bogalusa community.

On the night of February 22, 1965, it was reported that Robert Hicks, a Negro leader in Bogalusa and active in CORE work, spoke before the Bogalusa Voters League at a meeting called to lend support to the Bogalusa Negro Communities Cooperation with the City Administration. Hicks discussed at great length the DDJ information as discussed the previous evening by Ernest Thomas. Hicks pointed out to the people in attendance, who were mostly teenage children, the advantages of arming themselves and discussed hand grenades, walkie-talkies, and explained generally what was stated the previous night by Ernest Thomas.

Hicks went into great detail concerning how young Negroes could defend themselves by converging on police officers if the police were trying to arrest Negroes and cause difficulty at the time of the arrest and prevent the Negro from being arrested.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 2-26-65

1 - Belmont
1 - McGowan
1 - Sullivan

FROM: F. J. Baumgardner

1 - Baumgardner
1 - Trainor
1 - Gray
1 - Martin
1 - Phillips

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

This is an informative memorandum to report information obtained from [redacted] and two sources in that city concerning steps presently under way to organize the Deacons for Defense and Justice (DDJ). At a meeting held at Bogalusa 2-21-65 which was for the purpose of discussing the initiatio of the DDJ, several local Negro leaders were present including some members of the Congress Of Racial Equality (CORE). One Ernest Thomas did most of the talking and explained the collection of initiation fees and dues, which monies would be used to purchase radio equipment, walkie-talkies, literature and ammunition. Thomas discussed the types of weapons which Negroes should purchase and said the group had contacts in Chicago and Houston for automatic weapons. The general tenor of Thomas' talk was that Negroes should arm themselves, not only for defensive reasons, but that they should have roving patro so that if a Negro was being arrested by a police officer, other Negroes could come to the aid of the arrested person. Thomas said that if the Ku Klux Klan and white people generally wanted violence, they "intended to combat violence with violence."

[redacted] advised that upon information available the Bogalusa City Administration felt that the DDJ would not be too successful from the standpoint of membership and dues, but were concerned about the difficulties discussions of the type referred to above would have among the local Negro population

On 2-22-65 Robert Hicks, a Bogalusa Negro leader active in CORE, spoke before the Bogalusa Voters' League. He discussed Thomas' remarks of the previous evening before the DDJ and pointed out to those in attendance, most of whom were teenagers, the advantages of arming themselves. Hicks went into detail concerning how young Negroes could defend themselves by converging on police officers at the time the arrest of a Negro is being made.

REC-33

157-2466

CONTINUED - OVER

SFP:pdb
(9)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 SPC/JV

Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan
Re: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
157-2466

ACTION:

We have instructed the New Orleans Office to immediately initiate an intensive investigation of the DDJ because of the potential for violence indicated. New Orleans has been instructed to be alert for indications of subversive and/or outside influence; to be alert to any spread of the organization even though it now appears to be confined locally; and to set out leads for other offices promptly. They have been instructed to develop necessary sources and run out the allegation that the group has contacts in Chicago and Houston for weapons. Dissemination has already been made to Secret Service and the military intelligence at New Orleans; we are disseminating to the Department, Secret Service and the intelligence community in Washington, D. C.

2/26/65

1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Baumgardner
1 - Mr. Trainor
1 - Mr. Gray
1 - Mr. Martin
1 - Mr. Phillips

AIRTEL

To: SAC, New Orleans (157-3290)

From: Director, FBI (157-2466)

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(Internal Security)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gal/ff

Reurtel 2/23/65 which reported information obtained from [redacted] concerning steps presently underway to organize the Deacons for Defense and Justice (DDJ). A meeting was held 2/21/65 at Bogalusa with several Negro leaders present, including some members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Purpose of meeting was to discuss an organization being initiated in Louisiana known as the Deacons for Defense and Justice. One Ernest Thomas did most of the talking and explained the collection of initiation fees and dues, which moneys would be used to purchase radio equipment, walkie-talkies, literature and ammunition. Thomas discussed the types of weapons which Negroes should purchase and urged that they possess plenty of ammunition. He said his group had contacts in Chicago and Houston for automatic weapons. b7c b7

The general tenor of Thomas' talk was that Negroes should arm themselves, not only for defensive reasons, but that they should have roving patrols so that if a Negro was being arrested by a police officer, other Negroes could come to the aid of the arrested person. Thomas said that if the Ku Klux Klan and white people generally wanted violence they "intended to combat violence with violence."

[redacted] advised that based upon information available, the Bogalusa City Administration felt that the DDJ would not be too successful from the standpoint of membership and dues, but were concerned about the difficulties

SFP:kaq
(9)

REC-120 157-2466-6

19 MAR 5 1965

62 MAR

discussions of the type referred to above would have among the local Negro population.

On 2/22/65 Robert Hicks, a Bogalusa Negro leader active in CORE, spoke before the Bogalusa Voters' League. He discussed Thomas' remarks of the previous evening before the DDJ and pointed out to the people in attendance, who were mostly teenage children, the advantages of arming themselves. Hicks went into detail concerning how young Negroes could defend themselves by converging on police officers at the time the arrest of a Negro is being made.

Bufiles reflect the only information available concerning the DDJ is that contained in your radiogram 1/6/65 and follow-up airtel and letterhead memorandum (LHM) 1/6/65 which reported on information obtained from [redacted] and [redacted] concerning the initiation of this new organization. Percy Lee Bradford, identified as President of the DDJ in your 1/6/65 communications, is probably identical to the individual by the same name who is a victim in recent investigations by your office under the character "Public Accommodations, Civil Rights Act of 1964", [redacted]. b7 b7

There is no indication in communications submitted to date by your office that any investigation of captioned group is being initiated and it appears that the only sources from whom information has been received to date is [redacted] and the two individuals mentioned in the 1/6/65 LHM. Because of the potential for violence indicated, you are instructed to immediately initiate an investigation of the DDJ. Be alert for any indications of subversive and/or outside influence. Although it appears that the DDJ is confined locally, be alert to any spread of the organization and set out leads for investigation by other offices promptly. Develop information concerning the allegation of Thomas that his group has contacts in Chicago and Houston for automatic weapons. Intensify efforts to develop sources relative to the DDJ and be alert to the possibility of discouraging illegal arming and illegal acts by the group through interviews.

Expedite submission of LHM containing information in retel. It is noted that Secret Service, New Orleans, and Intelligence Corps Group, New Orleans, are being advised. Insure prompt local dissemination of all pertinent information as developed.

AIRTEL to SAC, New Orleans
RE: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
157-2466

The Bureau must be kept promptly advised of all developments relative to the DDJ and information suitable for dissemination should be promptly submitted by LHM.

It is noted that retel contained no reference to any prior communications whereas the information obviously tied in with your 1/6/65 communications. Failure to include appropriate reference, as required, results in an administrative burden at the Seat of Government. Remind responsible personnel concerning this matter.

FBI

Date: 2/26/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE-
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY LEE BRADFORD
RM

Re New Orleans teletype, 2/23/65 and New Orleans airtel, 2/24/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning captioned matter.

Enclosed for Chicago and Houston is one copy of above.

Copies furnished ICG and Secret Service, New Orleans.

3-Bureau (Encls.8)
1-Chicago (Encl.1) (Info)
1-Houston (Encl.1) (Info)
3-New Orleans (1-157-3290)
(1-173-201)
(1-157-3534)

FAS:cjo1 cc detached by
(8) Klan-Hate Group Unit

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC SER
DEPT ISD, CRD
DATE FORW: 3-5-65
HOW FORW: [illegible]
BY [illegible]

REC-3 157-3290-166 7

EX-117

9 MAR 1 1965

C.C. WICK

ENCLOSURE

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

67 MAR 15 1965

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
February 26, 1965

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY LEE BRADFORD

[redacted]

On February 24, 1965, [redacted] informed as follows concerning the captioned organization:

He stated that on the night of February 21, 1965, he had attended a meeting in the early evening of the 21 members of the Executive Committee of the Bogalusa Voters League. [redacted] He stated he subsequently found out that on the night of February 21, 1965, there had been a meeting attended by six members of Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), three of whom he knew were [redacted] and [redacted] He stated there were three colored members of CORE also in attendance, but he did not know specifically who they were. [redacted]

He stated that he had no knowledge of the actual nature of the discussion of this particular group which met with some other Bogalusa Negro citizens; however, he learned of the results of this on the night of February 22, 1965, at which time they had a general meeting of the Bogalusa Voters League.

He stated on that occasion Robert Hicks, 924 East Ninth Street, Bogalusa, Louisiana, took the floor and told the meeting which was attended by about fifty percent adults and fifty percent teenagers, of the plans of the Deacons for Defense and Justice.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-12-80 BY SP1/gxl/b

ENCLOSURE

157-[illegible] 7

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY LEE BRADFORD

In overhearing Hicks' discussion of this matter which Hicks had obviously learned from the CORE people at the Sunday evening meeting, the Deacons for Defense of Justice intended to organize a group to promote civil rights and its purposes were much the same as those of CORE, except that this group intended to purchase citizens band, radio walkie-talkies and other equipment for the purpose of communicating with one another in case of violence against Negroes in the Bogalusa community.

He stated that they talked, apparently at this meeting, about arming the Negro population in order that if any difficulty should arise with the police or with the Ku Klux Klan, or any other group, that the Negroes would be in a position to defend themselves and defend their fellow citizens who may be in some sort of difficulty.

[redacted]

He stated that plans to enroll Bogalusa citizens in the Deacons for Defense of Justice at $10.00 per person plus dues, probably would not receive a warm welcome at Bogalusa, although he personally realized that a certain segment of the population in the Negro community would be affected by this sort of talk and that [redacted]

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY LEE BRADFORD

[redacted] was not in a position where he could appeal to these people on an intelligent level as this matter would be entirely emotional with them.

He stated that he hopes that he could do something to prevent development of this sort of activity in the Bogalusa community.

[redacted] advised on February 25, 1965, that on the night of February 21, 1965, a meeting was held at Bogalusa, Louisiana, among several of the local Negro citizens and six members of CORE who he identified as [redacted] and another Negro whose name he does not recall.

The nature of this meeting was to explain to the Bogalusa Negro community or its representatives, of the need for an organization to aid the Negro in protecting himself from elements in his community. He stated that this organization was to be known as the Deacons for the Defense of Justice and that the dues were to be $10.00 initiation fee and $2.00 per month per person. He stated that of this money a certain percentage would be contributed to the statewide headquarters which was to have been established at Jonesboro, Louisiana. He stated that one of the CORE workers, [redacted] and Ernest Thomas, discussed the considerable length that the monies were to be used from the dues and initiation fees to pay radio equipment, including walkie-talkies, citizens band equipment, as well as ammunition and other various pieces of equipment. He stated that there was some discussion about the Negroes arming themselves and there was discussion about machine guns and purchase of machine guns as well as ammunition. [redacted]

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY LEE BRADFORD

[redacted] He stated that he was not too sure at this time, however, as to whether this organization was a good thing in view of the discussion about weapons and ammunition and in essence, a new militant position. He stated that the members from CORE who had met with them had discussed the fact that they had a charter for this organization but that [redacted] had not yet seen the charter and he did not expect to take any further action as to actually soliciting membership until such time as he could see the charter, study it, and discuss it at some length with an attorney.

[redacted] indicated that there had been temporary persons elected by this group, but did not identify these temporary officers. He did, however, point out that there was to be an additional meeting of those people who were interested in the Deacons for Defense of Justice on Sunday night, February 28, 1965, but that he did not know at this time whether there would be any CORE representatives or whether the members from Jonesboro who had inaugurated this program would be and to further spell out the aims and purposes of the Deacons for Defense of Justice.

[redacted]

On February 26, 1965, [redacted] advised that on February 21, 1965, he, [redacted] appeared at two meetings in Bogalusa, Louisiana, [redacted] stated that this organization was originated in the Jonesboro, Louisiana, area during the Summer of 1964. He stated that he believes the purpose of this organization is to assist Negroes in securing their rights to protect their homes and their families. [redacted] stated that this organization assists and advises Negroes as to the procurement of arms as well as instructs them how to obtain legal counsel in the event of court appearances.

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY LEE BRADFORD

[redacted] stated that Robert Hicks, a local Negro leader in Bogalusa, Louisiana, is the representative of this organization in the Bogalusa area. [redacted] stated that on Monday, February 22, 1965, Robert Hicks addressed a meeting of the local Negroes in Bogalusa at which time he stated that the above captioned organization was being organized in the Bogalusa area. b7c b7E

[redacted] noted that [redacted] does not approved the above captioned organization in that he feels that it is wrong for Negroes as part of an organization to secure arms, but feels that it is justifiable for individual Negro citizens to want to secure arms to defend their homes and families.

[redacted] was unable to furnish any information as to how the procurement of arms was handled by the Deacons for Defense and Justice. [redacted] stated that he believes that this organization will be formed in the Bogalusa area in the near future.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FBI

Date: 3/4/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY LEE BRADFORD
RM

Re New Orleans airtel of 2/24/65, and 2/26/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning captioned matter.

Enclosed for Chicago and Houston is one copy of above.

Copies furnished ICG and Secret Service, New Orleans.

ENCLOSURE

(3) - Bureau (Encl. 8)
1 - Chicago (Encl. 1) (Info)
1 - Houston (Encl. 1) (Info)
3 - New Orleans (1: 157-3290)
(1: 173-201)
(1: 157-3534)

FAS:sjt
(8)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gcl/pf

Copy detached by Klan-Hate Group Unit REC-8

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC SER
DEPT ISD, CRD, Dept of Commerce (CES)
DATE FORW: 3-8-65
HOW FORW: Courier Svc
BY: [illegible]

157-2468

C. C. Wick

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
New Orleans, Louisiana
March 4, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY LEE BRADFORD

On March 1, 1965, [redacted] informed that on the night of February 28, 1965, a volunteer meeting of the Deacons For Defense and Justice met at the Bogalusa Colored Union Hall, located on Third Avenue. He stated that this group which met was entirely local and was obviously a group which was following up the meeting of the previous week, which meeting had been attended by Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) members, and individuals from Jonesboro, Louisiana.

[redacted] stated that this meeting was obviously not attended by a sufficient number of Bogalusa Negro population to indicate much interest on the part of the population in the Deacons for Defense and Justice.

He provided the following names of those individuals who attended this meeting, which lasted approximately 35 or 40 minutes. He stated a total of 18 Negroes attended this meeting. Four of these individuals he was unable to identify. The others are as follows:

[redacted]

1-A

b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-[illegible] BY [illegible]

ENCLOSURE

[illegible] JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY L. BRADFORD

[redacted]

b7c

[redacted] that his inquiry into [illegible] will continue in [illegible] violent strife [illegible] of [illegible] Division.

[redacted] of [illegible] that this organization [illegible] to be successful in [illegible] from [illegible] Negro [illegible] affiliated in [illegible] which [illegible] its purpose [illegible]

[illegible] recommendations [illegible] the property on the [illegible] its complaint [illegible] your agency.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

MR. BELMONT

DATE: March 15, 1965

FROM J. H. GALE

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

Mr. Harold Reis of the Department telephonically advised that Governor LeRoy Collins, Director of the Community Relations Service, was in to see the Attorney General this morning at which time Collins expressed a great deal of concern with reference to an organization known as the Deacons for Defense and Justice which is located in Jonesboro, Louisiana. He advised that the organization is led by an extremely militant Negro whose name he didn't know and is the Negro counterpart of the Minute Men. He was desirous of being furnished any background information we have on this organization and of any investigation we are conducting concerning the same.

A check with the Domestic Intelligence Division concerning this organization reveals our New Orleans Office has previously advised concerning the Deacons for Defense and Justice. Information was furnished to the Civil Rights Division and the Internal Security Division of the Department by memoranda dated February 24, 1965, and March 4, 1965. The Deacons for Defense and Justice is a recently formed Negro organization in the State of Louisiana, including members of CORE and individuals from Jonesboro, Louisiana. At a meeting February 21, 1965, at Bogalusa, Louisiana, one Ernest Thomas who did most of the talking stated that the collection of initiation fees and dues are to be used to purchase radio equipment, walkie-talkies, literature and ammunition. Thomas pointed out Negroes should arm themselves, not only for defensive reasons, but that the Negroes should have roving patrols so that if a Negro was being arrested by a

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Gale

JHG:tjm
(6)

REC-1

3 MAR 18 1965

CONTINUED - OVER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80

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police officer other Negroes could come to the aid of the arrested person.

Immediate investigation was initiated by the field because of the indicated potential for violence. Investigation is to include the identification of Ernest Thomas and the activity of the organization.

Information has been furnished to Secret Service as well as military intelligence concerning this group. Investigation is being closely followed.

ACTION:

Since information concerning the Deacons for Defense and Justice has already been furnished to the Department, Mr. Reis' attention will be called to the previous memoranda furnished to the Civil Rights Division and the Internal Security Division.

FBI

Date: 3/3/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS

SUBJECT: ORIGINAL KNIGHTS OF THE
KU KLUX KLAN
RM
NO FILE: 105-1057

TESTING OF LOCAL FACILITIES,
BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA;
PUBLIC ACCOMODATIONS,
PUBLIC FACILITES,
CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964
RM
NO FILE: 173-201
BUFILE: 173-987

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA;
PERCY LEE BRADFORD
RM
NO FILE: 157-3290
BUFILE: 157-2466

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-8 BY SP1 8211

Reference New Orleans teletype to Bureau and New Orleans airtel to Bureau 2/26/65 entitled "DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE; JONESBORO, LOUISIANA; PERCY LEE BRADFORD, RM."

(9) - Bureau
7 - New Orleans (2: 157-3290)
(2: 173-201)
(2: 105-1057)
(1: 157-1319)

FAS:sjt
(16)

157-2466

NOT RECORDED
202 MAR 19 1965

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

56 MAR 24 1965

NO 105-1057:sjt

[redacted] stated that they also discussed at some length the OKKKK, particularly as this pertained to Bogalusa, which he stated is without question the better organized units of all units in Louisiana.

He stated that they discussed together in some detail the advantages and disadvantages of making a request through the Louisiana Congressional Delegates, including Congressman HALE BOGGS, Senator ALLAN J. ELLENDER Senator RUSSELL LONG, Congressman JAMES H. MORRISON, and others to apply pressure to some governmental investigative body with subpoena powers to investigate this organization in Louisiana. [redacted] stated the main feeling of the Governor was that if a governmental agency with subpoena power could inquire into the structure of the OKKKK and into its purposes and aims with respect to its violence potential, that this may cause the organization to dissolve as a result of its exposure to the public.

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[redacted] emphasized that this matter is only in the talking stages at this time, but that he hoped that possibly some decision could be arrived at in the next couple of weeks as to the merits of making such a request. He stated that it was agreed that no action would be taken by the Governor until such time as the Governor again communicated with him and informed him of his plans.

[redacted]

NO 105-1057:sjt

[redacted]

[redacted] stated that he is well aware of the FBI's responsibility with respect to organizations as The Deacons for Defense and Justice, and the OKKKK. He stated that he was most willing to co-operate at all times with the FBI, as he felt that the FBI had been of much assistance to [redacted] already in keeping the local authorities advised of potential demonstrations, etc. He stated that he would immediately advise the FBI of any information which he received from the Governor which would indicate the Governor's plans.

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b7D

This matter is being followed on a continuing basis at Bogalusa and if any plans are finalized, the Bureau will be informed by letterhead memorandum suitable for dissemination.

3-19-65

PLAINTEXT

1 - Mr. Trainor
1 - Mr. Freund

TELETYPE DEFERRED

TO WFO, NEW ORLEANS (157-3033)

FROM DETROIT, WDI

JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT NEGRO END PARENT, JONESBORO, LOUISIANA, RACIAL MATTER.

WFO NEW ORLEANS TEL MARCH EIGHTEEN LAST.

NEW ORLEANS CONSIDER INTERVIEWING [redacted] AND [redacted] DEACO FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. IF REASON EXISTS FOR NOT INTERVIE [illegible], ADVISE BUREAU DETAILS.

[illegible] PRIOR BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS RE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE AND KEEP BUREAU CURRENTLY ADVISED. CONTINUE TO [illegible] LHM AND MEMORANDA PROMPTLY. 157-2466

NOT RECORDED
174 MAR 24 1965

FHF:JMW (5)

0 - Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc.

NOTE: Deacons for Defense and Justice is a Negro group in Louisiana allegedly formed to provide assistance to Negroes bein arrested. Group alleged to be arming. Captioned situation involves Negroes protesting and demonstrating as result of rumor that high school coach Kirkpatrick reportedly active in recent civil rights activity was to be dismissed from position. Some indication that Deacons for Defense and Justice might be involve in violence in connection with this action. New Orleans previously instructed to expedite investigation of alleged organization to determine existence, leadership and activities and to consider complete interviews of leaders. Teletype being sent because of volatile racial situation and indication that Deacons for Defense and Justice may be involved.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-16-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

DUPLICATE YELLOW OF WIRE TRANSMITTED

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

MR. BELMONT DATE March 15, 1965

FROM J. H. GALE

SUBJECT DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

As indicated in my previous memorandum today, Mr. Reis requested information concerning the above-captioned organization, in view of a conversation which Governor LeRoy Collins, Director of the Community Relations Service, had with the Attorney General this morning. Mr. Reis was referred to our memoranda dated February 24, and March 4, 1965, advising the Department concerning this extremely militant Negro organization.

Mr. Reis was appreciative of this information and advised that he had now received additional information that Governor Collins or his aide, [redacted] had received a tip that the Deacons for Defense and Justice, Jonesboro, Louisiana, would do something "drastic" in the next two or three days. He was unable to furnish any specifics but requested that Governor Collins be contacted to see what specifics he had concerning this matter.

ACTION

That Governor Collins be contacted to determine the specifics of the alleged information in his possession that the Deacons for Defense and Justice would do something drastic in the next two or three days and that the New Orleans Office be immediately alerted to this information for their assistance in closely following this organization -- if approved, to be handled by the Domestic Intelligence Division.

Being done

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Gale
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan

JHG:LS
(6)

ENCLOSURE

REC-1

3 MAR 18 1965

58 MAR 3 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE BY

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

- F.H. Freund

3-16-65

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE DEFERRED

TO SAC NEW ORLEANS

FROM DIRECTOR, FBI

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION). RE NEW ORLEANS TEL MARCH SIXTEEN INSTANT, CAPTIONED JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL (NEGRO), JONESBORO, LOUISIANA. NEW ORLEANS EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION OF CAPTIONED ALLEGED ORGANIZATION TO DETERMINE ITS EXISTENCE, LEADERSHIP, ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES. INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO POINT WHERE FULL AND COMPLETE INTERVIEWS CAN BE CONDUCTED [redacted] EXPEDITE AND KEEP BUREAU IMMEDIATELY ADVISED OF PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

b7
b7

FHF:JMW (3)

NOTE: Deacons for Defense and Justice is a Negro group formed in Louisiana with one Ernest Thomas apparently its spokesman. Thomas has told Negroes they should arm themselves and form roving patrols which will assist Negroes when the Negroes are being arrested. Initiation fees and dues of the group are to be used to purchase ammunition, radio ~~[illegible]~~ equipment and literature. The New Orleans Office is conducting a current investigation of this group to determine its activities and leadership.

REC 53 157-2466-11

21 MAR 18 1965

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMMUNICATIONS SECTION MAR 16 1965

TELETYPE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

56 MAR 26 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 16 1965
TELETYPE

NEW ORLS

FBI WASH DC

607PM DEFERRED 3-16-65 RPP

TO NEW ORLEANS

DIRECTOR 1P

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RACIAL MATTERS (ORGNIZATION).

RE NEW ORLEANS TEL MARCH SIXTEEN INSTANT, CAPTIONED JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL (NEGRO), JONESBORO, LOUISIANA. NEW ORLEANS EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION OF CAPTIONED ALLEGED ORGANIZATION TO DETERMINE ITS EXISTENCE, LEADERSHIP, ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES. INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO POINT WHERE FULL AND COMPLETE INTERVIEWS CAN CONDUCTED [redacted] EXPEDITE AND KEEP BUREAU IMMEDIATELY ADVISED OF PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

END

NO....RJS

FBI NEW ORLS

TU CLR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gal/fr

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gal/Fmaebe

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: March 20, 1965

FROM : Mr. F. J. Baumgardner

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Gale
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Bland
1 - Mr. Baumgardner
1 - Mr. Cregar
1 - Mr. Gray

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

This is to advise you of the nature of captioned organization and its current activities. The Deacons for Defense and Justice is a Negro group allegedly being formed in the State of Louisiana. Its headquarters are believed to be in Jonesboro, Louisiana. Its President is reportedly Percy Lee Bradford and its Vice President is reportedly Earnest Thomas. Thomas has told Negroes that they should arm and form roving patrols which will assist any Negroes who may be arrested. Initiation fees and dues of this alleged group are to be used to purchase ammunition, radio equipment and literature. The New Orleans Office is conducting a current investigation of this alleged group to determine if it is in existence, the identities of its leadership and its specific activities. Currently, the Deacons for Defense and Justice appear to be interested in a demonstration which has been occurring at the Jackson High School (Negro), Jonesboro, Louisiana. Students there have been demonstrating in protest of the rumored dismissal of the Athletic Coach F. D. Kirkpatrick for his recent activity in behalf of civil rights. School authorities have not made known whether the coach is to be dismissed or the basis for such a dismissal.

Leroy Collins, Director, Community Relations Service, Department of Commerce, has expressed an interest in captioned organization. Pertinent information has been furnished to the Community Relations Service, Civil Rights Division and Internal Security Division of the Department, as well as military intelligence agencies and appropriate state and local authorities in the State of Louisiana.

New Orleans is following this matter closely and has been instructed to expedite its investigation of the captioned organization. We have been pressing for early interviews of [redacted] for the deterrent value such interviews might have. New Orleans has advised that since [redacted] are taking an active part in negotiations through the Community Relations Service with school authorities in an effort to resolve this dispute, they will not be interviewed until after a meeting 3/22/65 of the school board and the leaders of factions involved. This seems reasonable because otherwise we might be injecting ourselves into the middle of this school dispute. We are continuing to press vigorously our investigation of captioned organization.

b7

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

AWG:chs:pab
(11)

REC 13 75-[illegible]-12

10 MAR 25 1965

FBI

Date: 3/26/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-16-81 BY SP1 [illegible]

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290) (P)

SUBJECT: "CHANGED"
DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
RM

The title is marked changed to show the correct corporate name of this organization, which was previously referred to before it was incorporated by the name Deacons for Defense and Justice.

Enclosed to the Bureau are 10 copies of a letterhead memorandum in this matter; the extra copies are submitted for the Bureau file in the matter captioned JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL (NEGRO), JONESBORO, LOUISIANA, RM.

LEADS

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

Will conduct interviews with [redacted] of Deacons of Defense and Justice, Jonesboro, Louisiana, as set forth below to determine in detail the objectives of the organization and how these objectives are to be attained, with particular emphasis on possible use of firearms, potential for violence, any subversive and/or outside influence, whether patrols and guards

b7c
b7D

3 - Bureau (Enc-10)
4 - New Orleans
(2-157-3290)
(2-157-3693)

EC/bab (7)

REC-42

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC SER
DEPT ISD, CRD
DATE FORW: 4-6-65
HOW FORW:
BY: MCT-AI 157-2466

8 APR 8 1965

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

NO 157-3290

have been utilized and under what conditions; develop any information, particularly from [redacted] concerning the allegation [redacted] that this group has contacts in Chicago and Houston for automatic weapons; as instructed by Bureau by airtel dated 2/26/65 intensify efforts to develop sources relative to DDJ and be alert to discouraging illegal arming and illegal acts by the group through interviews. To be interviewed: [redacted] and [redacted]

b7C
b7D

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Additional information on this organization and its activity at Bogalusa, Louisiana, was furnished in memoranda dated February 24, 1965 captioned "Deacons for Defense and Justice"; and February 26, 1965 and March 4, 1965 captioned "Deacons for Defense and Justice, Jonesboro, Louisiana, Percy Lee Bradford."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
March 25, 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 Sal/JK

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

From July 1964 to October 9, 1964 the town of Jonesboro, Louisiana, had 5 Negro special police officers, during racial demonstrations and testing of Public Accommodations and Public Facilities under the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Three of the officers were [redacted] and [redacted] -- all of whom had other employment and served on a part-time basis without pay. These Negro special police positions were discontinued by the town of Jonesboro on October 9, 1964.

[redacted] advised on January 5, 1965 the Negroes organized a Negro Patrol of the Negro section of town to guard against such incidents as a Ku Klux Klan motor parade through the Negro section which occurred July 16, 1964 also to remove the fear among Negroes of incidents that might occur from Klansmen going into the Negro Section for possible acts of reprisal in the Negro section or persons exercising their rights, particularly rights granted under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

[redacted] stated that he felt that the Negro section was in need of police protection, which he said could not be had from the regular law enforcement officers of the area, particularly after the special Negro police were discontinued. [redacted] stated that the name the group adopted was Deacons for Defense and Justice (later incorporated under the name Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., (DDJ). [redacted] stated that the leader of the group was Percy Lee Bradford. [redacted] said that DDJ patrols were not ordinarily armed but that they were to have available to them firearms if needed for self-defense.

[redacted] advised on January 5, 1965 that DDJ was a non-violent organization within Jackson Parish formed to promote justice for the Negro. [redacted] stated that the DDJ followed the same principals as laid down by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE),

ENCLOSURE

NO 157-3290

except its members would, if attacked, defend themselves by use of force. He said the DDJ had two citizens band radios and two walkie talkies to be used to communicate with one another in case violence against a Negro should be initiated in Jackson Parish. [redacted] stated that there were between 250 and 300 members of DDJ within the parish; he said that they did not carry arms, although possession of shotguns and rifles for hunting is commonplace in the area. He said that the following were leaders at that time of DDJ, which was not chartered, or incorporated, at that time:

B. APPROX.

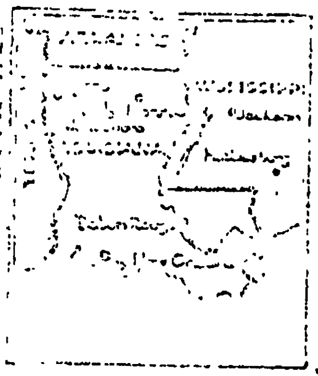
President: Percy Lee Bradford
Vice President: Henry Collins Amos
Secretary: [redacted]
Finance Secretary: [redacted]
Group Leaders: [redacted]

On January 5, 1965 [redacted] and [redacted] advised that they were aware of the existence of such a group as DDJ and were aware of patrols of such a group.

[redacted] advised January 5, 1965 that an organization known as Deacons for Defense of Justice, with Percy Lee Bradford, Negro male, age about 44, as president, has been organized at Jonesboro, Louisiana. He stated that this organization was organized to promote Negroes' civil rights and that its purposes were much the same as those of CORE. He stated that whereas CORE is completely non-violent in its methods of dealing with civil rights matters, DDJ would be more militant and inclined to use violence in dealing with any violent opposition encountered. He stated that the DDJ has night patrols in the Negro sections of Jonesboro and he feels that these night patrols are armed.

Following is a clipping from the New York Times, Sunday, February 21, 1965 under dateline February 19, 1965 at Jonesboro, Louisiana:

[illegible] Make Jonesbor[illegible] an Unus[illegible] Town



[illegible] spread through the Negro [illegible], which is called the C[illegible] and which consists of [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] would have [illegible] instead of [illegible]

[illegible] Mr. [illegible]'s self- [illegible] personal bodyguard [illegible]

[illegible] you to that boy," said the boy [illegible] He's just like a brother to me."

As a CORE worker Mr. Fenton believes in nonviolence. He has had to carefully explain his [illegible] to the Deacons, some of whom could not [illegible] and asked why Mr. Fenton didn't want them to bring their weapons into the office.

"I hope that they will become a civic organization [illegible] bettering the community and eventually making the [illegible] part of it obsolete. They want to extend their efforts to include other things—negotiating with downtown, becoming more active in Jonesboro's political life."

[illegible]

Negroes [illegible] difficulty [illegible] Negro [illegible] tion.

In [illegible] Negro churches [illegible] students from [illegible] Universities in New Orleans and Southern University in Baton Rouge have started programs to [illegible]

The Deacons believe that their mere existence has kept Jonesboro from developing into a [illegible] the power that they has given them.

Make Their Interest Known

[illegible] Deacons, they said [illegible] all the county law [illegible] and [illegible] have been more careful [illegible]

In [illegible] case, they said, a white [illegible] was sent [illegible] a 17-year-old Negro who had been accused of kissing a white [illegible] The Deacons found the boy and took him into protective [illegible] changed her story.

One member of the Deacons observed, "If it hadn't been for [illegible] this boy would have been lynched."

[illegible] white [illegible] It is obvious, how [illegible] the Deacons [illegible] and somewhat [illegible]

[illegible] Earnest Lee of Jackson Parish, [illegible] Jonesboro [illegible] the [illegible] to [illegible] the Deacons to a reporter. He said "If I have anything to give out, I'd give it to [illegible] newspaper boys around here. We got boys in Shreveport [illegible] Monroe who see things the way we do, and I give everything to them."

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~~ENCLOSURE~~

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[redacted] advised on March 20, 1965 that [redacted] had been aware of the existence of such an organization as DDJ for about three or four months and had seen Negro men apparently on patrol, or on guard in areas of testing of public accommodations by Negroes under the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He stated that the Negro men most often observed on the apparent patrols or guard details included Percy Lee Bradford, Earnest Thomas, [redacted]

[redacted] stated also that an article had been submitted from Jonesboro and published in the New York Times on February 21, 1965 recounting real or imaginary activities of DDJ, and in the article statements were made that members of DDJ were armed and equipped with citizens band (CB) radios. [redacted] stated that transmissions by Negroes on CB radios had been monitored on many occasions at Jonesboro, indicating that the Negro patrols and guard details were on duty, but no record had been kept of such transmissions that were monitored.

[redacted] stated that on January 30, 1965 about 10 unknown white persons were visiting in Jonesboro at the CORE office during the day and that night they were at the Minute Spot, a Negro cafe, along with Percy Lee Bradford, Earnest Thomas [redacted] and other Negroes. He stated that activities of that day indicated that the Negroes had been providing patrols and guards in connection with the visiting white persons and that night, just before midnight, [redacted] and [redacted] drove by the Minute Spot Cafe and observed Bradford, Thomas, [redacted] and [redacted] standing in front of the cafe. [redacted] was holding in his hands a shotgun, and the officers stopped and arrested him. [redacted] claimed that the shotgun was not his and that he was merely holding it, but he gave no information on whose gun it was or whom he got it from. Recovered from him was a 12 gauge shotgun loaded with a "ring" shell, and eight other "ring" shells were recovered from his pockets. A "ring" shell was described as a shotgun shell with a cut ring around the shell, so that when the shell is discharged in the gun, not only are the pellets expelled through the gun barrel, but a

NO 157-3290

portion of the shell casing is discharged with the load, making a large slug-type projectile. [redacted] stated that [redacted] was in the presence of Bradford, Thomas, [redacted] and [redacted] when he was arrested, and that they arrived at the jail promptly to bond him out after he was charged with displaying a dangerous weapon in a public place while under the influence of intoxicants. He said that [redacted] later entered a plea of guilty to the charge.

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b7D

[redacted] stated that he felt reasonably sure that these patrols and guard details were armed, because on recent occasions some of those most active had been arrested and loaded firearms had been recovered from them when arrested.

[redacted] stated that a [redacted] who resides near Jonesboro City Hall, observed [redacted] leave his taxi near city hall during the period of police roadblocks on March 11, 1965 and walk toward the Negro section; he said she observed [redacted] return to the taxi later carrying a rifle. [redacted] stated that [redacted] was arrested on March 15, 1965 for carrying a concealed weapon, and at that time there were recovered from him a .22 caliber automatic rifle and a four-barrel .22 caliber pistol, both loaded; recovered from him also at the time of arrest were two walkie talkie CB radios.

[redacted] stated that [redacted] was arrested on March 11, 1965 for resisting an officer and carrying a concealed weapon, and at the time of arrest there was recovered from him a .22 caliber automatic rifle, loaded, which [redacted] had been carrying in his car during the period of the demonstrations at Jackson High School (Negro) in Jonesboro.

and [redacted]

NO 157-3290

[redacted] advised on March 17, 1965 that Percy Lee Bradford and Earnest Thomas spoke out against the proposal of the school board that the students discontinue demonstrations and return to classes as a condition of the School Board's acceptance of the proposal to meet with the Negroes at Jackson High School on March 22, 1965. [redacted] supported the effort to get the students to discontinue demonstrations on March 17, 1965 as a basis for the meeting with the School Board, but because in part, at least, of the influence of Bradford and Thomas, President and Vice President, respectively of DDJ the demonstrations continued.

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The corporation charter records of the office of Jackson Parish Clerk of Court, Jonesboro, Louisiana, under registry file number 172923, contain a charter of Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., Jonesboro, Louisiana, filed March 8, 1965 showing that this organization, as a corporation, was formed March 5, 1965 by notarial act before James Sharp, Jr., Notary, and Attorney, at Monroe, Louisiana. Following is a copy of this charter as filed with the Jackson Parish Clerk of Court, Jonesboro, Louisiana:

172923

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

OF

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

UNITED STATES OF AMERI

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF OUACHITA

BE IT KNOWN, That on this the 5th day of the Month of March, In the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Si Five:

BEFORE ME, a Notary Public, in and for this Parish and State, personally came and appeared the several parties of full majority whose signatures are subscribed, who declared in the presence of the undersigned competent witnesses, that availing themselves of the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes of 19 Sections 12:101 - 12:155, they do hereby organize a nonprofit corporation as defined in Revised Statute 12:101 (8) under and i accordance with these articles of incorporation.

ARTICLE I. "NAME"

The name of this corporation is "Deacons of Defense an Justice, Inc."

ARTICLE II. "PURPOSES"

This corporation is organized for the following purpos and to carry on the following purposes: To instruct, train, tea and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minorit groups in the fundamental principals of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, t and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution a laws of the United State and the State of Louisiana, as well as constitution and laws of any other State wherein this corporatio may operate; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons the use, value and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote; instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation

duties : o citizen to the community ar :ne obligation and duties of the community to the citizen: To further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law.

ARTICLE III. "DURATION"

This corporation shall enjoy corporate existence for a period of ninety-nine (99) years from date hereof.

ARTICLE IV. "REGISTERED OFFICE"

The location and post office address of its registered office shall be: Amos Service Station, (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer [illegible], Jonesboro, Louisiana.

ARTICLE V. "REGISTERED AGENTS"

The full names and post office addresses of its registered agents are:

1. Earnest Thomas, P. O. Box 472, Jonesboro, Louisiana.
2. Elmo Jacobs, P. O. Box 124, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

ARTICLE VI. "BASIS OF ORGANIZATION"

This corporation shall be organized without capital stock and membership shall be evidenced by certificates of membership. The membership shall be constituted and composed of all of the undersigned incorporators and all persons hereinafter who apply for membership and satisfactory show that they are dedicated to the proposition of protecting through any and all legal means those rights granted by appropriate law to all Citizens of the United States of America and particularly members of minority groups and

are accepted as members by a majority of the members of this corporation present and voting at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE VII. "BOARD OF DIRECTORS"

The affairs of this corporation shall be managed by a board of directors consisting of five (5) members of this corporation from the time of incorporation until said number is changed by amendment to the article or by-laws of this corporation and the following shall constitute the first Board of Directors:

1. Percy Lee Bradford P. O. Box 95, Jonesboro, Louisiana
2. Earnest Thomas P. O. Box 492, Jonesboro, Louisiana
3. Charlie White P. O. Box 733, Jonesboro, Louisiana
4. Cosetta Jackson General Delivery, Jonesboro, Louisiana
5. Elmo Jacobs P. O. Box 124, Jonesboro, Louisiana

The qualification, term of office, manner of election, compensation, powers and duties of the directors, the time and place and manner of calling, giving notice and of conducting directors meeting and number of directors which shall constitute a quorum, shall be prescribed by the by-laws.

ARTICLE VII. "POWER AND CAPACITY"

This corporation shall have the capacity to act possessed by natural person and shall have authority to perform those acts which are necessary and proper to accomplish the purposes expressed or implied in these articles or that may be incidental thereto and shall have all the power, authority and capacity of a nonprofit corporation as provided for by Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 12:101 - 12:155 without limiting said powers, this corporation shall have the power and authority to receive, hold and administer property in trust as provided by law, to sue and be sued in the corporate name, to make and use a corporate seal, to hold, purchase, lease, mortgage, sell and receive by donation or otherwise, real,

personal mixed property, to borrow mor to issue, negotiate, sell and pledge evidences of indebtedness and to secure same by pledges, deeds of trust or mortgage, of both the whole or any part of the property of this corporation; and to receive, collect and pay out money for the accomplishment of its corporate purposes.

ARTICLE IX. "OFFICERS"

The Board of Directors shall elect the following officers: A President, who shall be chairman of the Board of Directors, a Vice-President, who shall be Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The board shall regulate and collect dues from all members according to its by-laws made for said purpose. The Board of Directors may create new offices and regulate the duties of the officers as it may deem advisable. The first officers are:

NAME	OFFICE
1. Percy Lee Bradford	President
2. Earnest Thomas	Vice-President
3. Charlie White	Secretary
4. Cosetta Jackson	Treasurer

ARTICLE X.

The Board of Directors shall have the power to make, amend and repeal by-laws to govern this corporation provided they are in accordance with and do not conflict with these articles.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, said Incorporators have hereunto signed their names at Monroe, Louisiana, in the presence of Barbara L. Sharp and Geraldine Williams, legal and competent witnesses, and me, said Notary Public, on this the 5th day of March, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Five.

WITNESSES:

Barbara L. Sharp

Geraldine Williams

NOTARY PUBLIC

Percy Lee Bradford
PERCY LEE BRADFORD

Earnest Thomas
EARNEST THOMAS

Elmo Jacobs
ELMO JACABS

Charlie White
CHARLIE WHITE

NO 157-3290

On March 24, 1965, [redacted] was contacted and interviewed regarding another matter [redacted] voluntarily furnished information that he is a member of Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. (DDJ), Jonesboro, which he described as a civic organization dedicated to civic improvement in the Negro community and to protection of the civil rights of persons in the Negro community. [redacted] stated that DDJ is entirely non-violent, but that some of the members have firearms for self-defense and for protection against persons, possibly connected with the Ku Klux Klan, who might go to the Negro section of town to engage in violence. There was observed a double-barrel shotgun, a single-barrel shotgun, a .30 caliber rifle and a .22 caliber rifle all standing in the corner of the office [redacted] The .30 caliber rifle was observed to have the name [redacted] taped on it. During the conversation with [redacted] it was observed that [redacted] walked into the office, and [redacted] handed him a loaded .45 caliber revolver in a leather holster from the desk drawer.

[redacted] stated that members of the DDJ do not engage in armed patrols, but that the stories of their armed patrols were given out to discourage klansmen and persons of that kind from going into the Negro section to cause trouble. He stated that there have been a number of crosses burned in the Negro section within the last year or two, and that one night in July, 1964, a motorcade of about 30 cars with persons wearing hoods and white robes drove through the Negro section of town, led by a police car of the Jonesboro Police Department.

[redacted] took from his desk a copy of the charter of DDJ, and he stated that the officers and members of the Board of Directors of the organization are responsible, civic-minded residents of Jonesboro. He stated that the organization has a very limited membership although it had made claim of a very large membership in order to be more effective in discouraging persons from entering the Negro section for the purpose of causing trouble.

[redacted] stated [redacted] and [redacted] as representatives of DDJ, had a meeting with [redacted] and [redacted]

NO 157-3290

Jonesboro, Louisiana, on the morning of March 24, 1965, and presented to them a plan for civil improvement of the Negro section of Jonesboro, including a clean-up drive and a plan for street signs and house numbers throughout the Negro section.

[redacted] stated that DDJ definitely does not advocate violence and that the use of firearms would be approved only for self-defense or for use to prevent klansmen or organized groups from entering the Negro section to beat up a resident of the area or to engage in acts of violence against a resident of the area. [redacted] stated that he felt that [redacted] of DDJ would be glad to furnish information to the FBI about the DDJ.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of theFBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/30/65

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (157-572) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA; PERCY LEE
BRADFORD
RACIAL MATTERS

ReNOairtel dated February 24, 1965.

During the period March 9, 1965, to April 27, 1965, a number of firearm dealers in Chicago, Illinois, have been contacted relative to investigation requested in referenced communication. Based on information furnished by these dealers, determination cannot be made with any degree of certainty as to shipments of firearms to the Jonesboro, Bogalusa, or New Orleans area on the basis of available descriptive data.

Representatives of gun dealers in Chicago from whom firearms can be purchased either on an over-the-counter retail basis or through mail order purchases are the following:

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-78 BY SP1 JAL/JK

REC 33

(2)-Bureau
3-New Orleans (157-3290)
(1 - 173-201)
1-Chicago

EX 109

9 MAY 3 1965

RJD:MDW
(6)

1 copies made
3-20-78 DJC/PFB
for review at FBIHQ by
HSCA: request 3-8-78 re
Waldman

SUBV-CONTROL

64 MAY 3 1965

CG 157-572

[redacted]

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As a result of interviews conducted with the above identified individuals, the following points are noted which, in effect, would preclude an exacting search of gun dealer records in Chicago, Illinois, for shipments of firearms to the named Louisiana areas:

1) It is noted that no law in the State of Illinois requires dealer registration of weapons other than hand guns and normally only the name and address of the purchaser as furnished by the purchaser is recorded. No effort is made to insure that the identities and addresses furnished are, in fact, authentic.

2) In most cases weapons control procedures utilized by a given firm are set up according to description of weapon by serial number or by date of transaction.

3) In cases where customers' names are maintained alphabetically, no index is available which would refer to the particular locality in which that customer resides.

4) Purchases made by Chicago area residents for individuals in communities outside the Chicago area may in most cases list only local addresses.

b7

It is noted that on March 9, 1965, [redacted] identified above, whose firm is one of the largest gun dealers in the Midwest, advised that based on information available to him, he would estimate that there are approximatel 25 firearm dealers in the Chicago, Illinois, area who are known to deal in the sale of weapons on a mail order basis. Of this

number, he said many are considered to deal in large volumes of guns. [redacted] added he could not speculate as to the number of small dealers who have occasion to do business out of state. He extemporaneously furnished a list of eleven known volume dealers which list is maintained by the Chicago Office. Included therein are such firms as Sears Roebuck and Company, Montgomery Ward, and Spiegel's, each of which has a large mail order business throughout the United States in addition to regular retail sales through their various retail outlets.

[redacted] stated that to search records of the many Chicago firms which are recognized as gun outlets would very likely be a monumental task. He explained that not having a description of weapon, date of purchase, identity of buyer, or area to which shipped, would make an exacting search extremely difficult. He noted that by having any of the above information, a search of such records would be facilitated.

For the information of the New Orleans Office and to exemplify the problems encountered in such a record search, it is noted that during a past investigation conducted by the Chicago Office a search of the weapons records of Klein's Sporting Goods was necessitated. This search utilized the services of six individuals for a continuous five-hour period. In connection with this search, the serial number of the weapon in question and that weapon's description were available prior to initiation of this search.

In view of the above, should the New Orleans Office request that the search of gun outlets be made, it is desired that efforts be made to develop further specific information regarding sale and/or shipment of weapons to the named Louisiana communities. Immediately upon receipt of the advice of New Orleans, this search will be initiated at Chicago, Illinois.

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FBI

Date: 6/10/65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority or Method of Mailing)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 Bd/4 2-4
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 6-10-85

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (~~100-442684~~)

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (157-768) (P)

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT
IS - RAM
(OO: CHICAGO)

Re Detroit airtel with LHM to the Bureau, dated 6/3/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of an LHM concerning captioned matter. One copy of the LHM being furnished C-2 and two copies of the LHM being furnished U.S. Secret Service, both Detroit, Mich. Two copies are also being furnished Chicago which is office of origin in this matter and two copies are being furnished New Orleans which has an apparent interest in view of mention of "The Deacons for Defense and Justice", which reportedly originated in the State of Louisiana.

The contents of the LHM have been made available to [redacted] and [redacted] The LHM is being classified confidential since information contained therein could reasonably result in the identification of informants of continuing value and thereby compromise the future effectiveness thereof. 157-2466-

NOT RECORDED
176 JUN 22 1965

3 - Bureau (Enc. 9) (RM)
2 - Chicago (Enc. 2) (RM)
2 - New Orleans (Enc. 2) (RM)
4 - Detroit
(1 - 157-835 FWHC)
(1 - 157-706 POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)

FJP/emo
(11)

1cc & cc LHM
808 RB

11 JUN 12 1965

51 JUN 30 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

Special Agent in Charge

Per

NOT RECORDED
157-2466 (DN)

DE 157-768

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] (C)

This matter is being followed closely by the Detroit Office and the Bureau will be advised of pertinent developments.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reply, Please Refer to

Detroit, Michigan
June 10, 1965

Re: Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM)

Reference is made to Detroit memorandum dated June 3, 1965, captioned as above.

[redacted] (c)

[redacted]

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

EXCEPT WHEN SECRET CLASSIFIED

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 SCL 1 ft 7-16 80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 6-10-85

157-2466-

CONFIDENTIAL

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

Re: Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c) b1

[redacted] (c)

"Bogalusa, La. - An armed league of Negroes, formed for defense against white terrorism, is spreading across the South.

"The Deacons for Defense and Justice, born last summer in northern Louisiana, has crossed the Mississippi River into Mississippi and Alabama and plan to move into every Southern state.

"The Deacons have guns and they have shown they are willing to use them. Twice in Louisiana they have opened fire on harassing whites.

"The organization raises a hard question for advocates of nonviolence. Should a civil rights organization committed to nonviolence align itself with the Deacons and accept its services, as one organization has done, at least tacitly if not by design?

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CONFIDENTIAL

Re: Revolutionary Action Movement
(RAM)

"The Deacons are causing concern among law enforcement authorities in Louisiana.

"The organization was formed largely out of a belief that Negroes could not ex-impartial treatment from white lawmen and that, if they were to be defended against church burnings, bombings, beatings, killings have to do it themselves.

"Ernest Thomas of Jonesboro, La., 32, the vice president and full-time organizer of the Deacons, said that the organization had 50 to 55 chapters in various stages of organization in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

"He declined to disclose the number of members. Outsiders have guessed from 5,000 to 15,000, he said, but he would not indicate that either figure was correct. The membership, he said, is not large.

* * *

"The main strength is in Louisiana. The inroads across the Mississippi appear to be tentative and exploratory.

"Thomas visited the Deacons in Bogalusa Friday in the wake of the murder of O'Neal Moore, one of Washington Parish's first Negro deputy sheriffs. He was interviewed at the home of Robert Hicks, a Bogalusa Negro leader whose home has become the headquarters of the Bogalusa civil rights movement.

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Re: Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM)

"Richard Haley of New Orleans, the Southern Director of the Congress of Racial Equality, participated in the interview. CORE and the Deacons are on friendly terms. Many Deacon chapters are in towns that have CORE staffers at work.

"Haley said the connection between the two organizations began accidentally at Jonesboro when CORE discovered that its workers were safer with the Deacons around.

* * *

"Thomas said the Deacons were armed with rifles and pistols.

"'Everybody [illegible] his own piece', he said. The organization provides ammunition, which it buys in quantity for savings.

"Thomas hopes to standardize weapons to effect further savings. He favors the 30 - caliber Army carbine and the 38 - caliber pistol. Some members have automatic carbines that will fire 30 rounds like a machinegun. Most now use shotguns, Thomas said.

"Thomas and Haley share a concern that the Deacons may be painted as aggressive and trigger happy. They were organized strictly for defense and they are highly disciplined, Thomas said.

"One of their main jobs is to protect civil rights workers and

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Re: Revolutionary Action Movement
(RAM)

"volunteers participating civil rights activities. A person knowingly exposes himself to white violence when he walks a picket line. But when at night he is entitled to rest without worry, and that's where the Deacons come in, Thomas said.

"With Percy Lee Bradford of Jonesboro as president, the Deacons were incorporated in March as a non-profit corporation in Louisiana."

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

Re: Revolutionary Action Movement
(RAM)

[redacted] that three of the individuals in attendance at this FWHC meeting, namely [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] are also local RAM members.

A characterization of RAM is contained in the appendix hereto.

All unidentified sources utilized in the appendix have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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APPENDIX

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM)

On November 3, 1964, a source made available a document entitled, "The Revolutionary Action Movement Manifesto", the document having been obtained by the source from an individual known to be a member of RAM.

This document stated, in part, that RAM was officially organized in the Winter of 1963, by Afro-Americans who support the revolutionary objectives of ROBERT F. WILLIAMS, now residing in Cuba, and his concept of organized violence to achieve the liberation of the Afro-American people in the United States. This Manifesto reflected that RAM had oriented its program to one of education and political revolution and the organization of a "black" political party with revolutionary objectives, having recognized the need for a "black revolution" that could and would seize power. RAM philosophy is described in this document as one of revolutionary nationalism, that is, one involving the struggles of the non-white races of the world against exploitation and enslavement by the white capitalist and imperialist nations.

Regarding WILLIAMS, above, it should be noted that on August 28, 1961, a Federal warrant was issued at Charlotte, North Carolina, charging him with Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution for the Crime of Kidnapping. Subsequent to the issuance of this warrant, WILLIAMS fled the United States to Cuba, where he now publishes a monthly newsletter entitled "The Crusader" from Havana.

On November 16, 1965, a second source advised that he learned recently from a RAM member that the organization was begun in Detroit, Michigan, largely under the impetus of DON FREEMAN, Cleveland, Ohio, described as the "Father" of RAM and referred to as RAM's "Black Stalin". FREEMAN now serves as RAM Chairman, with MAXWELL STANFORD, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, serving RAM as Field Chairman. This second source advised that there is no formal headquarters, as such, for RAM at present, but that headquarters are, in effect, with FREEMAN since he plays a dominant role in the leadership and directs the policies and activities of the organization.

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This second source, in September, 1964, advised that RAM is dedicated to the overthrow of the capitalist system in the United States, by violence if necessary, and to its replacement by a socialistic system oriented toward the Chinese Communist interpretation of Marxism-Leninism. RAM is entirely non-white in membership, clandestine in nature, and owes its primary allegiance to the "Bandung World", that is, the non-white races of the world, rather than to any national entity, as such.

To date, according to the second source, in November, 1964, RAM has organized units and membership in several of the larger cities in the United States east of the Mississippi River, and the organization is currently active, attempting to recruit new members and expand its sphere of influence.

TRUE COPY

[redacted]
West Des Moines, Iowa
June 16, 1965.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Enclosed are some clippings taken from the Des Moines Sunday Register, Des Moines, Iowa, relating to the Deacons, an organization headed up by one Ernest Thomas, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

This organization seems to be patterned after all similar groups such as Minutemen, KKK and similar groups which parade under the guise of being a defensive organizations. It is a Negro organization and purports to take the law into its own hand rather than permit local, state and federal officials and courts to handle this. Armed with high powered weapons, some of which have great fire power, such groups unless kept under rigid surveillance and control could lead to bloodshed and anarchy.

It is also surprising the apparent ease with which these people obtained these weapons when they are denied to the average citizen.

Some of my friends are deeply disturbed by this organization as well as other similar armed mobs. Hence the reason for this letter.

I am not interested in what has been found out about this group but only if it has come to your attention and is receiving investigative attention.

Please be advised your support out this way is very strong and unwavering. People still have the greatest confidence in the FBI and in these troublesome times provides an anchor to which people can tie.

Wishing you many more years of continued success.

Very truly yours,

[redacted]
X Agent [redacted]

8 JUN 23 1965

PERS. REC. UNIT

XEROX
JUL 7 1965

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-

[redacted] b7C

West Des Moines, Iowa
June 16, 1965

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Enclosed are some clippings seen from the Des Moines Sunday Register, Des Moines, Iowa, relating to the Deacons, an organization headed up by one Ernest Thomas, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

This organization seems to be patterned after all similar groups such as Minutemen, KKK and similar groups which parade under the guise of being defensive organizations. It is a pro organization and purports to take the law into its own hands rather than permit local, state and federal officials and courts to handle this. Armed with high powered weapons, some of which are great fire power, such groups are not under surveillance and control could be established.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-16-80 BY SP2 [illegible]

and democracy.

It is also surprising the apparent [redacted] with which these people claimed these responsibilities, they are denied to the average citizen.

Some of my friends are deeply [redacted] disturbed by this organization as well as other similar armed units.

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Please be advised your support of this way is very strong and [redacted] encouraging. People still have the greatest confidence in the FBI and [redacted] these troublesome times people [redacted] anchor to which people can tie.

[redacted] Wishing you many more [redacted] years of fortunate success,

Very truly yours,

[redacted] b7c

[redacted] Agent [redacted]

Des Moines Sunday Register, June 6, 1965

ARMED DIXIE NEGRO LEAGUE IS SPREADING

Page 1.

50 Chapters Now In 3 States

By Roy Reed
New York Times News Service

BOGALUSA, LA.—An armed league of Negroes, formed to defend Negroes against white terrorism, is spreading across the South.

The Deacons for Defense and Justice, born last summer in northern Louisiana, has crossed the Mississippi River to Mississippi and Alabama and plans to move into every Southern state.

The Deacons have guns and they have shown they are willing to use them. Twice in Louisiana they have opened fire on harassing whites.

The organization raises a hard question for advocates of non-violence. Should a civil rights organization committed to non-violence align itself with the Deacons and accept its services, as one organization has done, at least tacitly if not by design?

Doubt Law

The Deacons are causing concern among law enforcement authorities in Louisiana. The organization was formed largely out of a belief that Negroes could not expect impartial treatment from white lawmen and that, if they were to be defended against church burnings, bombings, beatings, killings and terrorism, they would have to do it themselves.

Earnest Thomas of Jonesboro, La., the 32-year-old vice-president and organizer of the Deacons, said Friday that the organization had 50 to 55 chapters in various stages of organization in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

He declined to disclose the number of members. Outsiders have guessed from 5,000 to 15,000, he said, but he would not indicate that either figure was correct.

The main strength is in Louisiana. The incursions across the Mississippi appear to be tentative and exploratory, with considerable organizational work still to be done.

Thomas said the Deacons could spread to every Southern state in six or seven months, "with hard work."

Visits Members

Thomas visited the Deacons in Bogalusa Friday in the wake

DEACONS —
Continued on Page Eight

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2 16 80 BY SP1 [illegible]

Des Moines Sunday Register
June 6, 1965
General Section
8-G

ARMED WITH RIFLES, PISTOLS

DEACONS---

Continued from Page One

of the murder of O'Neal Moore, one of Washington Parish's first Negro deputy sheriffs. Many Deacon chapters are in towns that have CORE staffers at work.

Richard Haley of New Orleans, the southern director of the Congress of Racial Equality, said the connection between the two organizations began accidentally at Jonesboro when CORE discovered that its workers were safer with the Deacons around

Thomas said the Deacons were armed with rifles and pistols.

"Everybody owns his own piece," he said. The organization provides ammunition, which it buys in quantity for savings.

He hopes to standardize weapons to effect further savings. He favors the 30-caliber, Army carbine and the 38-caliber pistol. Some members have automatic carbines that will fire 30 rounds like a machine gun. Most now use shotguns, Thomas said.

Thomas and Haley share a concern that the Deacons may be painted as aggressive and trigger-happy. They were organized strictly for defense and they are highly disciplined, Thomas said

One of their main jobs is to protect civil rights workers and volunteers participating in civil rights activities. A person knowingly exposes himself to white violence when he walks a picket line. But when he goes to bed at night he is entitled to rest [illegible] security, and that's where the Deacons come in, Thomas said

Started in March

With Percy Lee Bradford of Jonesboro as president, the Deacons were incorporated in March as a non-profit corporation in Louisiana.

The idea started last summer in Jonesboro after a Ku Klux Klan parade through a Negro street, Thomas said. He said the Klan rode through the street throwing out leaflets with a Jonesboro police escort.

"We decided that if the power structure would do that for the Klan, then we had better do something for ourselves," he said.

$25,000 AWARD

BOGALUSA, LA. (AP)—Gov. John J. McKeithen, in a tough mood over racial troubles here, offered a $25,000 cash reward Saturday to help crack the ambush slaying of a Negro deputy.

McKeithen, after meeting with the ranking investigators in the slaying of Washington Parish Deputy O'Neal Moore, met with

157-2416-1

June 22, 1965

[redacted]

West Des Moines, Iowa

Dear [redacted]:

Your letter of June 16th has been received, and it was good to hear from you. Your best wishes and the confidence in the work being handled by the Bureau expressed in your letter are also deeply appreciated.

Thank you for forwarding the newspaper clippings. Your observations are being made a matter of record.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Correspondent is on the Special Correspondents' List. He EOD [redacted] and retired [redacted]. His file is satisfactory. [redacted]
DCL/ufp The Deacons for Defense and Justice are subject of Bufile 157-246
(3)

MAILED 25
JUN 22 1965
COMM-FBI

JUN 22 10 51 AM '65
REC'D-READING ROOM
F B I

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1/gal/jk

20 JUL 1965

FBI

Date: 6/15/65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code) CONFIDENTIAL

AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED
(Priority)

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED~~ HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184)(P)

RE: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
aka "The Deacons;"
CHARLES SIMS, Spokesman
RACIAL MATTERS
OO: New Orleans

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 8ph 7 1 C 80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4, C
DATE OF REVIEW 6-15-85

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight (8) copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) setting out observations of SA [redacted] who viewed Los Angeles TV Channel 11, Sunday night, 6/13/65 observing the "LOUIS LOMAX Show." CHARLES SIMS from Bogalusa, Louisiana, who claimed to be the spokesman for "The Deacons" was the featured guest. Xerox copies of two newspaper articles appearing in the "Los Angeles Times" dated 6/13 and 14/65 were made a part of this LHM. It is noted that one newspaper article reported that "The Deacons" had machine guns and other weapons in their private arsenal. Three copies of the LHM are enclosed for New Orleans. Locally, copies of the LHM are being sent to Region II, 115th LMTC, Pasadena; Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, Los Angeles and Secret Service, Los Angeles.

b1 b7C

6/14/65 [redacted] SA [redacted] orally on (C)
[redacted]

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau (Encls. 8)
2 - New Orleans (Encls. 3)(AM-REGISTERED)
3 - Los Angeles
(1 - [redacted] b1 (C) MCT 2
MIB:bjs
(8)

12 JUN 17 1965

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI-SEC. SER.;
DEPT: ISD, CRD, RAO
DATE FORW: 6-16-65
HOW FORW: RIS
BY: STEM/JE

1cc & cc LHM
0808 RB

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

53 JUN 29 1965

INT-SEC.

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b1

It is being noted that subsequent to the appearance of SIMS on the foregoing described TV program, anonymous telephone protests were received at the Los Angeles Office complaining as to the aims and arms of SIMS and "The Deacons" which indicated to them the formation of a "Negro KKK."

LEAD

LOS ANGELES

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. Will report the departure of SIMS from Los Angeles.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Los Angeles, California
June 15, 1965

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
also known as "The Deacons;"
CHARLES SIMS, Spokesman
RACIAL MATTERS

EX APPROX. 1/1/1

A Special Agent of the FBI viewed the "Louis Lomax TV Show," Channel 11, Los Angeles, California, beginning 11 p.m., Sunday night, June 13, 1965. Charles Sims, the featured guest, described himself as "The Man" in "The Deacons" in Bogalusa, Louisiana, saying he was 41 years old, a native of Bogalusa, Louisiana, had finished one year of high school, had served four years and five months in the U. S. Army attaining the rank of Technical Sergeant. He had sold industrial insurance prior to becoming associated with "The Deacons" and currently is working as an underwriter for a builders' insurance group.

Sims was observed to be a male, Negro, graying at the temples, balding on the top of his head and a scar was noticed in the middle of his chin. He appeared to be about 5'10" and of medium build.

Sims stated that "The Deacons" were organized about six months ago and that now there are from 50 to 60 chapters in three or four states. He declined to give the total numerical membership. He claimed "The Deacons" were organized for the purpose of protecting civil rights workers who could not obtain protection from local law enforcement authorities.

Sims stated that "The Deacons" are armed and are buying more arms with which to defend themselves. He admitted he is aware that it is not legal for them to carry weapons, but that he "would rather be caught with a weapon than without one in Bogalusa."

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/12/80 BY SP2 [illegible]

ENCLOSURE

[illegible] - 16

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
Also known as "The Deacons;"
CHARLES SIMS, Spokesman
RACIAL MATTERS

He voiced the opinion that in the event of "trouble" that "blood would be flowing down the streets like water." He claimed he could rally 100 armed men within fifteen minutes notice and had done so previously. He claimed he had used his gun twice but did not elaborate.

Any suggestions made to this program while Sims was being interviewed which favored "non-violence" were unacceptable to Sims and to the audience who applauded Sims wildly with Lomax commending Sims.

At the conclusion of the program, Lomax stated Sims would spend the next few days in Los Angeles meeting with various civil rights organizations.

[redacted] b7C b7D

A newspaper article entitled "Negro 'Deacons' Claim They Have Machine Guns, Grenades for 'War'", and dated June 13, 1965 appeared in the "Los Angeles Times," "Exclusive to The Times from a Staff Writer," was copied and is a part of the letterhead memorandum.

A second newspaper article entitled "Deacons Chief Defends Aims on Visit to L.A." appeared in the "Los Angeles Times" dated June 14, 1965 which was the results of an interview with Sims by Times Staff Writer Paul Weeks, also was copied and made a part of this letterhead memorandum.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Negro 'Deacons' Claim They Have Machine Guns, Grenades for 'War'

Exclusive to The Times from a Staff Writer

BOGALUSA, La.—At two secret meetings, both attended by representatives of the Congress of Racial Equality, the Deacons for Defense and Justice claimed to have machine guns and grenades for use in racial warfare.

The Los Angeles Times learned that the Bogalusa chapter of the armed Negro vigilante group discussed the use of those and other military-type weapons at its organizational meeting last [illegible] and again at a meeting the following [illegible].

The Deacons stated their purpose is [illegible] defensive. However, [illegible] pledged to protect [illegible] from being hit. [illegible] Negroes in racial areas [illegible].

They also proposed making sure Negroes get fair trials and having armed confrontations with policemen when Negroes are arrested.

The rising militancy of the Deacons and the expansion of the movement is a new element in the civil rights struggle which federal and state officials view with increasing concern.

In Bogalusa a veteran police officer said:

"They are flirting with danger. The other night there was a little commotion and rumors of trouble in the colored community. The Deacons hopped in their cars and went zipping around the streets.

"If they keep that up they are bound to run into trouble."

CORE has co-operated with the Deacons in civil rights work in Bogalusa and Jonesboro. The secret order of Deacons was organized in Jonesboro last summer, reportedly with the aid of CORE members, to protect Negroes and civil rights workers from armed racists.

Earnest Thomas, 32, of Jonesboro, an official and full-time organizer of the Deacons, has told newsmen that there are now 50 to 55 chapters in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Fund-raising units are being established in San Francisco, New York and other large cities, he said.

Thomas and another official of the parent group, Frederick Douglas Kirkpatrick, a high school coach in Jonesboro, came to Bogalusa in February to organize the local chapter.

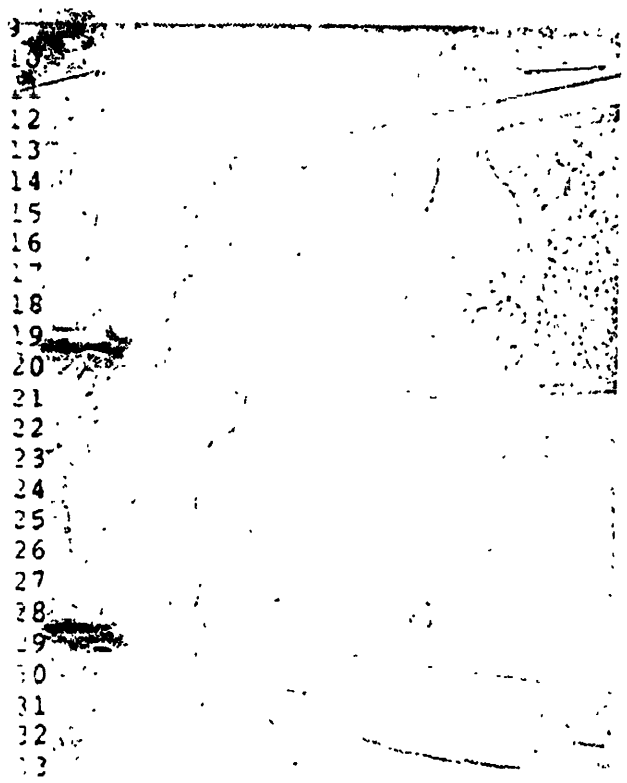
With them were two white CORE workers—Steve Hil-

Please Turn to Pg. 16, Col. 1

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Cal.

Date: 6/13/65
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor: Nick B. Williams
Title: Deacons For Defense & JUSTICE
Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Los Angele
☐ Being Investigated



URVEYS DAMAGE—Robert Hicks, vice president Bogalusa V League, surveys damage to car rked in front of his house which he said was fired from passing auto. He returned gunfire.
Wirephoto

9, of San Francisco, a nt of Antioch Co and William Yates, ston, a former Corrie sh professor ss than three weeks be he organizational meet Miller and Yates report y were shot at and bea y racists in Bogalusa. e night of April 7 Yates staying at the home of n Robert Hicks when fired back at whites hot at his home.)

Combat 'Inevitable'

the organizational ng, Kirkpatrick d racial combat as it is inevitable. The learned.

"It takes violent blacks to combat these violent whites," he declared. "It takes non-violent whites and non-violent Negroes to sit down and bargain whenever the thing is over—and iron it out. I ain't about to.

"We're gonna be ready for 'em. We're gonna have to be ready to survive."

About 15 persons attended the organizational meeting at a Negro union hall here Feb. 21. They included Charles Sims, an ex-cab driver with a police record of assaults and concealed weapons, who was elected chapter president; A. Z. Young, president of the Bogalusa Civic and Voters League, elected vice president, and Robert Hicks, another Voters League official.

Both Sims and Hicks refused to tell a Times reporter whether Bogalusa Deacons are armed with machine guns and other military-type weapons.

"You know better than to ask me questions like that," said Sims.

Hicks said, "You don't tell your opponents what you're doing in any kind of conflict."

Powerful Weapons Urged

Kirkpatrick warned the new Deacons against "the tendency to buy something cheap, like a little one .22-caliber rifle." He said, "That's no weapon—you need high-powered rifles."

"If you gonna use a pistol," he said, "use a .38. A shotgun is good to have for close-distance firing."

Deacons standardized their weapons, he said, making it practical to buy ammunition by the case.

"If you got only three or four bullets," he said, "you're out of the fight before it starts. Keep plenty of ammo at your house, in your car wherever you are. Be ready. I carry with me most all the time a hundred rounds."

Thomas interjected, "We have contacts in Chicago and Houston for automatic weapons—for .50-caliber and .30-caliber."

Someone asked, "What's that, machine guns?"

"Yeah—and we got grenades too," Thomas said. "We want to be ready if they want to be violent."

Radio Communications

Thomas explained that Deacons pay $10 initiation fees and $2 a month dues to their local chapters, which in turn pay the parent organization $100, plus 10% of dues. In return, he said, the parent group helps equip local chapters with two-way radio equipment.

The same week the Bogalusa chapter was formed, other Louisiana units were being established in Baton Rouge, New Iberia and Plaquemine.

Thomas told the Bogalusa group that Deacons chapters have inter-city radio communications so they can call for reinforcements in case of emergencies.

The use of walkie-talkies for patrol work was described by Yates and Miller, the CORE workers.

Kirkpatrick said Deacons would not "protect the man who is in the wrong," but would want to "check things out and make sure he gets a fair trial."

"The whites will pester you," commented one Deacon, "but when they see the hardware, they will take cover."

400 Attend Meeting

The mass meeting the following day was attended by about 400 persons. The grounds around the union hall were heavily patrolled by Deacons. No newsmen were present.

The formation of the Bogalusa chapter was announced by Hicks, who said that CORE had brought two officials of the Deacons from Jonesboro to organize the unit.

Hicks said the Bogalusa chapter would be "the same as in Jonesboro. They got radios, walkie-talkies, grenades, gas bombs, M-1 rifles. They set up a patrol system for the Negro community."

With the Deacons patrolling, Hicks said, "No white person will be allowed in a Negro area at night—salesmen or anybody." Thunderous applause and cheers greeted that remark.

Plan Regular Patrols

Hicks said, "We're gonna patrol. And, like policemen who are running you down and say, 'You speedin',' then we pull up to them and say, 'What's the matter,' and the policeman say, 'He's speedin'.'

"And we say, 'We didn't see him speed,' and when the policemen see we armed just like they is—a white man's just like anybody else—they gonna let you go when they see you gonna attack them back."

The total strength of the Deacons is kept secret by the organization, but outside estimates have ranged from 5,000 to 15,000.

Hicks has estimated the number of Deacons here at 175 to 200. He said about 75% of them are veterans of the armed services and several are experts in the use of military weapons.

Bogalusa Police Chief Kleston Knight says the Deacons increase the danger of racial explosion.

"My men are watching them closely," he said. "If one of them makes the wrong move he's gonna get his head blown off."

Sims prepared Saturday to leave for Los Angeles where he will be interviewed on a television program.

"I'd like to start a chapter of the Deacons in Los Angeles," he said. "Man, there's police brutality and people with that white supremacy stuff everywhere."

But Hicks said he does not see any need for a Los Angeles chapter.

"They got problems out there just like everywhere else," Hicks said, "but nobody's shooting at anybody in Los Angeles."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Deacons Chief Defends Arms on Visit to L.A.

Use of Arms Necessary Because of Lack of Justice for Negro in South, He Says

BY PAUL WEEKS
Times Staff Writer

sat immaculate in a business suit, white and plain tie, sipping coffee in a fashionable bar on the Sunset. It was mid-morning. 41, he is balding. His face is set off with a mustache. He lit one sized cigaret after an-

caron, the bartender lyle" because that's the few others present him. And the barten- ied him "Mr. Sims" as artender used "Mister" the others.

Sims". Charles Sims ice man, and he have been any other Los Angeles.

From Bogalusa

he is Charles Sims, ent of the Bogalusa hapter of the Deacons nce and Justice, which dly has amassed ma- guns and grenades les for any eventual- e southern racial con- ion.

e has reserve with rs was broken, Sims easily and admitted it e first time he'd had a n three months.

metimes," he said, slept with my clothes weeks at a time — and mes I didn't even take off."

committal on the bit the heavy artillery, admitted the Deacons ms in violation of the concealed "weapons

Charles Sims
Times photo

Choice Taken

"I would rather be caught in Bogalusa," he said, "with concealed weapons than without them."

The Deacons' arms, he insisted, are defensive—not retaliatory — for he believes southern law enforcement and justice for the Negro are nonexistent.

But federal and state authorities are worried. The Deacons, they say, are playing with matches in a powder magazine. Regardless of his words, how can Sims or his associate leaders ward off explosion when mob passion flares?

"I know every man in the Deacons in Bogalusa. It's a small (pop. 5,000) town. Neither the Communists nor the FBI could get in. And I'm no Communist. The members respect the leadership. That's good enough."

View Differs

To the law, Sims' assurance of organizational discipline is a fraying thread. He sees it as a steel chain one minute—but then:

"One time the police went into a picket line of our people and they pulled up young girls' dresses with nightsticks and they put lighted cigarets on their straw 'freedom' hats. I didn't know what was going to happen."

The Deacons' leadership promptly met at Sims' house.

"I took out my gun and put it on the table. I told everybody, 'Put them down there.' They put their guns down. We went down to that picket line and we joined it. There was no more trouble."

While he side-stepped the direct question as to whether the Deacons have machine guns and grenades, he said, regarding how they could possibly be conceived to be "defensive."

"I saw all the blood and combat I ever want to see in the second World War. I saw innocent people killed, too. I don't want to see no more combat if I can get around it. But if ever there is a line coming at us with little or big weapons, I want to be ready."

But of more immediacy, he said civil rights workers —white or black—couldn't enter Bogalusa without the Deacons' armed cover. "We've protected more white men in Bogalusa than we ever protected colored."

Reviews Life

"But let's go back. I took what I wanted a long time. My folks could of sent me to any school I wanted. I didn't want that.

"I got in the Infantry. I moved around. I saw things I never thought about in Bogalusa. I went to the library

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.
Part 1, page 25

Date: 6/14/65
Edition:
Author:
Editor: NICK B. WILLIAMS
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: LA

☐ Being Investigated

and I studied. I went to NCO school and came out a sergeant.

"One day in the Army I see a corporal who was a policeman in Bogalusa. He sees me in integrated places and all that. He was a die-hard. He got out of the service first. He sees me back in Bogalusa—me still in uniform.

"First thing he says, 'Remember, you're not in the Army now.' I made up my mind then not to be pushed around."

Sims has had a gun from that day to this.

On Dec. 6, 1959, a woman shot him and he almost died.

"I told my mother they got this woman in jail who shot me. I told her I was going to hit that women. The only defense she had against me was a weapon. I said, 'If I die, don't you prosecute.'

"And when I got well, the district attorney says, 'You prosecute.' And I says, 'You know I can't read or write. Who going to sign?' (I write better left-handed than he write).

"I was confined to bed for 40 days and look up to the top of the house. You live your life over like that. I never took time out before to sit down and listen to my own thoughts."

Reconciliation Told

The woman who shot him "is my girl right now, and I don't plan to swap her for nobody."

Long after the shooting, the Saturday night brawler, "saw the police on TV dragging a woman like she was a piece of wood," and shortly he was in the Bogalusa Civic and Voters League and then the Deacons.

"The mayor invite CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) in for a test of integration in public places. They integrate for the test—they reject us after the test is over."

At Sims' elbow, fascinated, sat author-commentator Louis Lomax, who "invited Sims here to be dissected on Lomax' Sunday night TV show.

Anticipates Interview

"He say on the phone he going to take me apart with questions," Sims laughed. "I don't know then if he white or black—but the way he say it, I trust him—and I don't answer questions I don't want to."

One last question: Did Sims want to organize a Deacons chapter in Los Angeles?

He paused. He smiled.

"I hadn't thought about it." He had thought coming here might raise money for the Deacons and he hadn't given much thought to whether his appearance here might arouse more hatred and terror than money.

"You might have need for them here. I know Bogalusa. I don't know Los Angeles."

(A day earlier, Sims told a Times reporter in Bogalusa he would like to start a chapter in Los Angeles, adding, "Man, there's police brutality and people with that white supremacy stuff everywhere.")

CONFIDENTIAL

FBI

Date: 6/21/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184)(RUC)

RE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
aka. "The Deacons";
CHARLES SIMS, Spokesman
RACIAL MATTERS
OO: New Orleans

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau, 6/15/65.

b1
b7C
b7D

[redacted] that [redacted] SA [redacted] (c)

[redacted] that [redacted] SA [redacted]

3 - Bureau (RM)
2 - New Orleans (RM)(AM)
1 - Los Angeles

157-1466

REC-70

MIB/jlm
(6)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gal/lv 7-16-80
REASON - FCIM II, 1-5, 4.2 - 2
DATE OF REVIEW 6-21-81

EX 102

10 JUN 26 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved: 274 WDM

Sent _____ M Per _____

FBI

Date: 6/24/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

REC-72

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-New) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
HOMER, LOUISIANA, CHAPTER
RM

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are original and eight copies of a letterhead memorandum setting forth information concerning captioned organization. Copies of this memorandum are being disseminated to ICG and Secret Service.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 9)
2 - New Orleans (157-New)

WPJQ/cm
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gal/jk

REC-72

JUL 1 1965

EX-101

AGENCY: AFSL, CIL, OSI, NAVY, ONI, CIA
DATE IN: 6/29/65
HOW FORW: SFP
BY:

1cc & cc LHM
SCS RB

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana

June 24, 1965

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
HOMER, LOUISIANA CHAPTER

On June 10, 1965, [redacted] indicated that a Chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice had been formed in Homer, Louisiana. [redacted] indicated that the organization, exclusively composed of local Negro males, had originally been formed by Negroes in Bogalusa and Jonesboro, Louisiana, as a self-protection group. [redacted] continued to explain that the organization was active in areas where Civil Rights activity had either actually or was presumed to potentially precipitate violence against Negroes by local white segregationists.

[redacted] said that the specific purpose of the group was to arm themselves and to "meet force with force" in such instances as local white men employed force or "terror tactics" against Negroes. [redacted] was emphatic in stressing that the organization intended no aggressive or violent action against any individual or group, and that no member of the organization would employ any type of force unless such action was initiated against him first.

[redacted] furnished a list of Negro male individuals who are currently members of the Homer, Louisiana Chapter of the organization and the positions they occupy, as follows:

GEORGE DODD	Homer, Louisiana	President
FRED LEWIS	Homer Stop, Lisbon, Louisiana	Vice President
OTIS CHATMAN	Homer, Louisiana	Secretary
JOE LESTER GREEN	Homer, Louisiana	Financial Secretary
ROY SMITH	Homer, Louisiana	Treasurer
[redacted]	Homer, Louisiana	Member
	Homer, Louisiana	Member
	Homer, Louisiana	Member
	Homer, Louisiana	Member
	Homer, Louisiana	Member
	Homer, Louisiana	Member
	Homer, Louisiana	Member

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

ENCLOSURE

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the F.B.I. It is the property of the F.B.I and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONGRESSIONAL MAIL

FORWARD IN CELLOPHANE ENVELOPE

DO NOT MARK OR DEFACE IT IN ANY WAY !

Congress of the U

House of Repr

Washington, D.C.

June 30th, 1965

Congressional Liaison
Office
Federal Bur. of Investigation

Sir:

The attached communication is sent for your consideration. Please investigate the statements contained therein and forward me the necessary information for reply, returning the enclosed correspondence with your answer.

Yours truly,

M. C.

James H. Morrison
2354 Rayburn Building
Washington, D. C.

REC- 28 / 57-2466-19

1 JUL 2 1965

CORRESPONDENCE

enc

38 JUL 2 1965

TRUE COPY

b7C

[redacted] La.
June 23, 1965

Urgent

Rep. Jimmy Morrison
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir.

Urgently request you ask Justice Dept. to look into Matter of "Deacons For Defense" in Bogalusa, one Charles Sims, reported to be president. They are supposed to have Machine guns, and hand grenades. I live seven miles from that arnsnal, in the hands of a bunch of idoitic Negros, and I want that investigated!

Would appreciate hearing from you immediately that you are looking into this.

Sincerely yours

[redacted]

Write to

[redacted] La.

b7c

June 27, 1965

Rep. Jimmy Morrison
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

Urgently request you ask Justice Dep to look into matter of "Deacons for Def" in Bogalusa, one Charles Sims, reported be president. They are supposed to have Machine Guns and hand grenades. I live seven miles from that arsenal in the hands of a bunch of idiotic N. And I want that investigated!

Would appreciate hearing from you immediately that you are looking into. Rs

Sincerely yours

b7c

[redacted]

17 6 7 6 5

REC-28 157-2466-17

July 6, 1965

Honorable James H. Morrison
House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gal/jr

JUL 6 3 48 PM '65
REC'D-READING ROOM
F B I

My dear Congressman:

I received your communication of June 30th and the enclosed letter from [redacted]. b7c

While I would like to be of assistance to your constituent, information contained in our files must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice. She may be assured, however, that this Bureau is ever aware of its responsibilities, and whenever a violation of a law within our jurisdiction occurs, we will make every effort to continue to discharge our obligations with the highest degree of thoroughness and dispatch.

I am returning [redacted]'s letter with this communication.

MAILED 8
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure

1 - New Orleans - Enclosures (2) b7c

NOTE: Our relations with Congressman Morrison have been generally cordia A prior communication from [redacted] to this Bureau on 5/4/65 was not acknowledged because of critical remarks regarding the FBI's work in the civil rights field. The New Orleans Office is conducting a current investigation regarding Deacons for Defense and Justice to determine its activities and leadership. It is Negro group formed in Louisiana with one Ernest Thomas as apparently its spokman. He has advised Negroes that they should arm themselves and form roving patrols which will assist Negroes when Negroes are being arrested.

66 JUL 29 1965

(5)

(continued on next page)

Honorable James H. Morrison

Fees and dues of the group are used to purchase ammunition, radio equipment and literature. Thomas claims they have 50 chapters in four Southern states. The organization was formed as a protective measure for Negroes who are not suitably protected by local law enforcement agencies. A Charles L. Sims identified himself as head of this group.

7/19/65

Airtel

1 - Mr. J. L Martin

To: SACs, New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc.)
Birmingham (157-1446) (Enc.)
Charlotte (157-882) (Enc.)
Jackson (157-3465) (Enc.)
Jacksonville (157-new) (Enc.)
Mobile (157-1017) (Enc.)
Savannah (157-731) (Enc.)

From: Director FBI (157-2466)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS
CO:NEW ORLEANS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

Reairtel to New Orleans dated 2/20/65 NOairtel to Bureau 3/26/65 and NOteletype 7/14/65.

Enclosed for each office is one copy of a "Wall Street Journal" article dated 7/12/65, entitled "Three Dixie Negroes Buy Arms to Retaliate Against White Attacks."

For the information of Offices receiving this communication, the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., is a Negro organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Louisiana with headquarters at Jonesboro Louisiana. The Deacons has as one of its purposes the arming of Negroes for protection against Klan violence and recently has been active in racial demonstrations in Bogalusa, Louisiana. In addition to the enclosed articles, it has received wide publicity. It has been reported in news articles, such as the enclosed, that the Deacons has 50 to 55 chapters in several states; it allegedly has 5,000 to 15,000 members and has acquired a large number of weapons Bureau investigation to date has not substantiated apparent exaggerated claims At early organizational meetings in Bogalusa Louisiana, in February, 1965, Deacon leaders boasted that they had sources who could furnish large amounts of weapons and ammunition including automatic weapons. It is necessary therefore, that we obtain complete facts as to the organization's actual strength.

JLM:pjn
(16)

MAILED 6
JUL 19 1965
COMM-FBI

REC 25

58 JUL 20 1965

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

Airtel to SAC, New Orleans
RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
157-2466

ReNOairtel of 3/26/65, sets forth leads to interview [redacted] of the Deacons in an effort to obtain details concerning membership, arms and activities. New Orleans immediately conduct interviews of Deacons' [redacted] with the purposes of obtaining complete information regarding the organization and discouraging illegal arming and illegal acts. b7D

It is noted that the recipient offices, except New Orleans, advised by teletypes 7/14-15/65, that the organization did not exist in their territories. Nevertheless, all offices receiving this communication will immediately conduct appropriate investigation to determine if there are any Deacons' Chapters in their respective Divisions. Promptly advise the Bureau of the existence of any Deacons' Chapters or attempts to organize. Determine leadership, strength of membership, activities, and arms acquired. Be especially alert for any large supply of arms and their source. Disseminate all pertinent information to Army Intelligence and Secret Service, locally. Promptly submit letterhead memoranda concerning developments.

New Orleans, as Office of origin, is instructed to submit an investigative report within thirty days which should include results of all investigation to date.

NOTE:

Memorandum, Baumgardner to Sullivan, dated 7/14/65, answered an inquiry of the Director as to the accuracy of the "Wall Street Journal's" article, 7/12/65. This organization has been under continuous investigation since January, 1965, and regular dissemination has been made to the Intelligence Community, Secret Service, the Department and the Community Relations Service. We are continuing to follow closely this investigation and believe that further intensified investigation being directed by this airtel is merited.

FBI

Date: 7/12/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL — AIR MAIL
(Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-16-84 BY SP1 [illegible]

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

SUBJECT: (1) DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

For information of the Bureau, [redacted] telephonically advised [redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted] advised he had information from members of the Deacons for Defense and Justice that they had 50 or 55 chapters either already in operation or being put in operation in Louisiana, and they were extending this into Alabama and Mississippi.

[redacted] stated he had talked to members of this organization in Jonesboro, La., and this is where he got his information, but in talking to other people, they advised this organization was not as big as the members claimed it to be, and he was going to Bogalusa, La., to try to verify this.

He inquired as to whether the New Orleans Office could give him any information and he was advised "no comment".

C. Wick

3 - Bureau (RM)
1 - Birmingham (Info) (RM)
1 - Jackson (Info) (RM)
1 - Mobile (Info) (RM)
2 - New Orleans

JTS:sam
(8)

REC-57

JUL 14 1965

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent ~~in Charge~~

SUBV. CONTROL

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1 - Belmont
1 - Mohr

TO: W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 7-15-65

1 - DeLoach
1 - Rosen
1 - Sullivan
1 - Bland 1 - Baumgardner
1 - Phillips

FROM: F. J. Baumgardner

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS

The Director and Mr. Tolson have inquired as to the accuracy of an article in the 7-12-65 issue of "The Wall Street Journal" headed "More Dixie Negroes Buy Arms to Retaliate Against White Attacks." The article (attached) primarily concerns the Deacons of Defense and Justice which is an all-Negro secret organization centered in Louisiana with headquarters at Jonesboro.

Background of Organization

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons dated 3-5-65 in the State of Louisiana gave the purposes of the organization as including: to educate citizens, especially minority groups, in the Constitution and laws of the United States; to teach the obligations of citizenship; and to teach the defense of property and personal rights by "any and all honorable and legal means." At early organizational meetings, leaders discussed purposes as being the acquisition of weapons by Negroes in an effort to defend themselves against Klan violence and to provide protection not provided by local authorities. The Deacons Vice-President and organizer, Earnest Thomas, also told Negroes that they should arm and form roving patrols to assist any Negroes being arrested. The Deacons have worked closely with James Farmer and his organization, the Congress of Racial Equality, and with the Bogalusa Voters League, a local civil rights organization. The Deacons have been active in the recent demonstrations in Bogalusa. The Deacons have been the subject of a continuing Bureau investigation since January, 1965, and we have been regularly disseminating information concerning this organization to the Department, military intelligence, Secret Service and the Community Relations Service.

Analysis of Article

ENCLOSURE The following is based upon information in Bureau files including a current check with the field. The article is generally accurate in respect to the purposes of the organization, the

Enc.
SFP:pdb
(9)

REC 4

CONTINUED - OVER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-2-80 BY SP1B4/fx

56 JUL 27 1965

3 JUL 23 1965

factors which motivated its start, its close relationship with other groups such as the Congress of Racial Equality and the possession of firearms and walkie-talkie radio equipment by its members. There are, however, a number of inaccuracies and exaggerations in the article relating to the following: The article reports claims by some Deacons leaders of having over 50 chapters including some in neighboring states. Bureau investigation reveals chapters exist only in Jonesboro, Bogalusa and Homer, Louisiana; none in neighboring states. Article reports membership estimates as between 5,000 and 15,000. Bureau investigation indicates this highly exaggerated and membership probably no more than a few hundred.

Article reports Deacons possess firearms and this generally borne out by our investigation including actual observations by Bureau Agents. In this connection, it should be noted that most rural southerners possess firearms and that the carrying of rifles and pistols in rural areas is commonplace by both whites and Negroes. Such firearms and ammunition are readily available from local hardware, sporting goods stores, mail order houses and gun dealers. The carrying of firearms in Louisiana is permissible provided the weapons are not concealed on the person. A significant comment was made by a Deacons member, [redacted], who said that Deacons members do not actually engage in armed patrols but that the story was circulated concerning such patrols in order to discourage Klansmen from causing trouble in Negro sections. Article reports that Bureau Agents are monitoring walkie-talkie transmissions of the Deacons. Although our New Orleans Office has equipment in Bogalusa capable of monitoring the Deacons walkie-talkies, no monitoring has been done of the Deacons.

Article reports a Deacons chapter in Varnado, seven miles north of Bogalusa, to protect the widow of Oneal Moore, a Negro Deputy Sheriff slain June, 1965. Our investigation in the Varnado area including interviews with the Moore widow has not established that any protection is being undertaken by the Deacons and there is no known chapter located there.

OBSERVATIONS:

Inasmuch as the Deacons were apparently organized for defensive purposes as a retaliation to Klan acts against Negroes,

it is not surprising that Deacons leaders would exaggerate its strength for the purpose of discouraging violence against Negroes and to help encourage increased membership. A striking illustratio of the exaggeration as to the number of chapters is the fact that an article by Roy Reed appeared in the 6/6/65 issue of "The New York Times" which quoted Deacons leader Thomas as saying they had 50-55 chapters in various stages of organization. On 7/12/65 [redacted] had reports of 50-55 chapters and contradictory information that the Deacons is not as big as claimed. He was given a "no comment" reply to his inquiry for information concerning the Deacons. This surely illustrates the uncertainty as to the actual facts notwithstanding newspaper accounts.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is for your information. We will continue to follow closely this investigation and keep you advised of pertinent developments.

FBI

Date: 7/15/65

CONFIDENTIAL

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ AIRMAIL
(Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-3465)

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gal/fv 7-16-80
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2, 2
DATE OF REVIEW 7-15-85

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.
DATE FORWARDED: 7-22-65
INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING RECORD: ISD, CRD, FBHQ

ReJNtel to Bureau, 7/14/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of LHM. Two copies LHM furnished New Orleans Division.

[redacted]

In the event any additional pertinent information is received concerning the Deacons for Defense and Justice, the Bureau and New Orleans will be immediately advised.

3 - Bureau (Encls. 8)
2 - New Orleans (Encls. 2)
2 - Jackson
HEH:cj
(7)

ENCLOSURE

REC-23 157-2416-24

17 JUL 17 1965

cc & ~~co~~ LHM
808 RB

56 JUL 27 1965

Approved: _____ Special Agent ~~in Charge~~

Sent _____ M Per _____

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Jackson, Mississippi
July 15, 1965

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

Confidential sources who have furnished reliable information in the past and who are familiar with the activities of civil rights organizations in Jackson, Mississippi, have advised that they know of no organizations of the "Deacons for Defense and Justice" in the State of Mississippi.

On July 14, 1965, [redacted] advised that he had recently made a specific check concerning the possibilities of the "Deacons for Defense and Justice" operating in Mississippi, and found no evidence that they were. He stated that he made a special effort to determine if there might be any such organization in the Mississippi counties near Shreveport, Bossier City, Louisiana, but found no evidence that this organization was operating in any of these counties.

On July 14, 1965, Charles Evers, Field Secretary, [illegible] Association for the Advancement of Color[illegible] People, [illegible], Mississippi, advised in connection with a [illegible] distributed to him in an article in "The Wall Street Journal" of July 13, 1965, that he had referred to the Negroes in Mississippi [illegible] themselves from violence and [illegible] that he stated he "was glad were around". He said [illegible] no groups of the "Deacons for Defense and Justice" [illegible] in Mississippi.

[illegible] contains neither recommendations nor conclusions [illegible] the property of the FBI and is loaned to you [illegible] and its contents are not to be distributed outside [illegible]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

ENCLOSURE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 1 1 1965
TELETYPE

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI SAVANNAH

6:52 PMEST URGENT 7/14/65 CJD

TO DIRECTOR,I

FROM SAVANNAH /157-731/

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE- RACIAL MATTERS.

RE: CE TEL CALL THIS DATE, PERTAINING TO ARTICLE, WALL ST. JOURNAL, JULY TWELVE LAST.

SAVANNAH KNOWS OF NO ACTIVITY CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION IN DIVISION. EFFORTS BEING MADE TO DETERMINE IF IN EXISTENCE THIS DIVISION. AM COPY CE FOR INFO.

WA...JPM

FBI WASH DC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP2 SEC/JK

157-2116-25

NO JUL 27 1965

T

U

Phillips

6 E AUG 3 1965

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 15 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

F

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

4-45AM CST URGENT 7-15-65 CWB

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., AKA. DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE. RACIAL MATTERS.

RE BU TEL-CALL JULY FOURTEEN SIXTYFIVE.

I. GENERAL SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE (DDJ)

A. NUMERICAL STRENGTH

ON JANUARY FIVE SIXTYFIVE [redacted]

[redacted] ADVISED THAT AN ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE HAD BEEN ORGANIZED AT JONESBORO, LOUISIANA.

REC-113 157-

[redacted] OF THE DDJ, JONESBORO, LA. ADVISED ON JANUARY FIVE SIXTYFIVE THAT THERE WERE BETWEEN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY AND THREE HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THE DDJ'S IN JACKSON PARISH, LOUISIANA. ON MARCH ONE SIXTYFIVE [redacted]

[redacted] STATED ON THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY TWENTYEIGHT SIXTYFIVE

END PAGE ONE

3 JUL 27 1965

9 AUG 9

PAGE TWO

A MEETING OF THE DDJ'S HAD TAKEN PLACE IN BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA.

[redacted] STATED THAT FOURTEEN NEGROES ATTENDED THIS MEETING.

ON MARCH TEN SIXTYFIVE [redacted] AND [redacted], BOGALUSA, LA., ADVISED THAT THERE ARE FOURTEEN MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION IN THE BOGALUSA BRANCH OF THE DDJ.

b7D

ON JANUARY TEN SIXTYFIVE [redacted] HOMER, LOUISIANA CHAPTER OF THE DDJ ADVISED THAT THERE WERE TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE DDJ INCLUDING HIMSELF IN HOMER, LOUISIANA.

B. MEMBERSHIP

ON JUNE THIRTEEN SIXTYFIVE, CHARLES SIMS APPEARED ON THE LOUIS LOMAX TELEVISION SHOW, CHANNEL

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

ELEVEN, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, STATED THERE ARE FROM FIFTY TO SIXTY CHAPTERS OF THE DDJ'S IN THREE OR FOUR STATES.

AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES ON JUNE THIRTEEN SIXTYFIVE WITH A DATELINE OF BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA, STATED IN PART THAT EARNEST THOMAS OF JONESBORO, LOUISIANA, AN OFFICIAL AND FULL-TIME ORGANIZER OF THE DEACONS, HAD TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THERE ARE FIFTY TO FIFTYFIVE CHAPTERS IN LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI AND ALABAMA. FUND RAISING UNITS ARE BEING ESTABLISHED IN SAN FRANCISCO, NEW YORK AND OTHER LARGE CITIES.

IN THE CONTINUATION OF THIS ARTICLE, ROBERT HICKS OF BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA ESTIMATED THE NUMBER OF DEACONS IN THE BOGALUSA, LA. AREA AT BETWEEN ONE HUNDRED

END PAGE THREE

SEVENTYFIVE AND TWO HUNDRED MEMBERS.

THE ARTICLE FURTHER STATED THAT AT THE SAME TIME OTHER LOUISIANA UNITS WERE BEING ESTABLISHED IN BATON ROUGE, NEW IBERIA AND PLAQUEMINE. STATED TOTAL STRENGTH OF THE DEACONS IS KEPT SECRET BY THE ORGANIZATION BUT OUTSIDE ESTIMATES HAVE RANGED FROM FIVE THOUSAND TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE.

C. CHAPTERS

AT THE PRESENT TIME IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA THERE ARE THREE CHAPTERS KNOWN TO THE NEW ORLEANS DIVISION. THESE CHAPTERS ARE LOCATED AT JONESBORO, BOGALUSA AND HOMER, LOUISIANA.

AS NOTED IN THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES DATED JUNE

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

THIRTEEN SIXTYFIVE, ADDITIONAL CHAPTERS WERE REPORTEDLY BEING ESTABLISHED IN BATON ROUGE, NEW IBERIA AND PLAQUEMINE.

D. ARMS

ON FEBRUARY TWENTYTWO SIXTYFIVE [redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] ADVISED THAT HE HAD LEARNED THAT EARNEST THOMAS (DDJ) JONESBORO, LOUISIANA AT A MEETING OF THE DDJ IN BOGALUSA HAD STATED THAT NEGROES SHOULD BUY SUBSTANTIAL WEAPONS SUCH AS THREE ZERO SIX CALIBER RIFLES. THOMAS SUGGESTED THAT TWELVE OR SIXTEEN GUAGE SHOT GUNS WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL.

THOMAS STATED THAT HIS GROUP HAD CONTACTS [redacted] IN CHICAGO AND HOUSTON FOR AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND MENTIONED PURCHASING A FIFTY AND THIRTY CALIBER

END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

MACHINE GUN.

[redacted] ON MARCH TEN SIXTYFIVE ROYAN BURRIS,

MEMBER OF THE DDJ AT BOGALUSA, STATED IN AN ARTICLE

APPEARING IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES THAT EARNEST

THOMAS OF JONESBORO, AN OFFICIAL AND FULL-TIME

ORGANIZER OF THE DEACONS, STATED THAT THE DEACONS

HAVE MACHINE GUNS AND HAND GRENADES.

ON MARCH TWENTYFOUR SIXTYFIVE [redacted]

[redacted] AT JONESBORO,

LOUISIANA, ADVISED THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE DDJ b7C

[redacted] HAVE FIREARMS FOR SELF-DEFENSE AND FOR PROTECTION b7D

AGAINST PERSONS POSSIBLY CONNECTED WITH THE KU

KLUX KLAN.

[redacted] STATED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE DDJ

DO NOT ACTUALLY ENGAGE IN ARMED PATROLS BUT THAT

END PAGE SIX

THE STORY CONCERNING THESE PATROLS WAS GIVEN OUT

TO DISCOURAGE KLANSMEN AND PERSONS OF THAT TYPE

FROM GOING INTO THE NEGRO SECTIONS CAUSING TROUBLE.

AGENTS OF THE NEW ORLEANS DIVISION HAVE

OBSERVED SIDEARMS, RIFLES AND SHOT GUNS, BUT NO MACHINE-

GUNS IN THE POSSESSION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF

THE DDJ IN BOGALUSA AND JONESBORO, LOUISIANA.

E. SOURCES OF ARMS

INVESTIGATION BY BOTH THE CHICAGO AND

HOUSTON DIVESION OF THE FBI HAVE FAILED TO DETERMINE

ANY SOURCE FROM WHICH THE DDJ'S WERE SECURING

MACHINE GUNS OR AUTOMATIC WEAPONS.

THE THREE KNOWN CHAPTERS OF THE DDJ'S ARE LOCATED IN

RURAL AREAS IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA. IN THESE VARIOUS

END PAGE SEVEN

PAGE EIGHT

RURAL AREAS THE CARRYING OF RIFLES AND PISTOLS ARE

COMMONPLACE BY THE CITIZENRY, BOTH WHITE AND NEGRO.

FIREARMS SUCH AS RIFLES AND PISTOLS AND AMMUNITION ARE

READILY AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL HARDWARE, SPORTING GOOD

STORES, MAIL ORDER HOUSES, AND GUN DEALERS. THE CARRYING

OF FIREARMS IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA IS PERMISSIBLE

PROVIDING THESE WEAPONS ARE NOT CONCEALED ON THE

PERSON.

BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE

MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE DDJ'S IT IS BELIEVED

THAT WITHOUT OUTSIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT THAT PURCHASING

OF WEAPONS ON A LARGE SCALE COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED

BY THE DDJ'S.

II. [redacted] b7C ALLEGED MEMBER IN

THE DDJ'S

END PAGE EIGHT

PAGE NINE

INVESTIGATION TO DATE IN THE BOGALUSA AREA HAS NOT ESTABLISHED [redacted]'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE DDJ'S.

IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT [redacted] IS A STATE DEFENDENT INVOLVING THE ASSAULT OF [redacted]. b7C

INTERVIEW HAS BEEN CONDUCTED OF [redacted]

III. JONESBORO CHAPTER OF DDJ'S

THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FILED MARCH NINE SIXTYFIVE WITH THE LOUISIANA SECRETARY OF STATE SHOW THE CORPORATE DOMICILE OF DDJ AS JONESBORO, LOUISIANA.

IV. ALLEGED MONITORING OF THE WALKIE-

END PAGE NINE

TALKIES OF THE DDJ BY FBI.

THE NEW ORLEANS DIVISION HAS EQUIPMENT

[redacted]OGALUSA, LOUISIANA CAPABLE OF MONITORING THE

WALKIE TALKIES OF THE DDJ, KLAN AND CITIZENS BAND RADIOS,

HOWEVER, NO MONITORING HAS BEEN DONE OF THE DDJ.

V. ALLEGED PROTECTION OF THE WIDOW OF

O'NEAL MOORE

[redacted] INVESTIGATION IN THE VARNADO AREA WHERE

O'NEAL MOORE RESIDED AS WELL INTERVIEWS OF O'NEAL

MOORE'S WIFE HAS NOT ESTABLISHED THAT ANY PROTECTION

HAS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE DDJ'S IN THE VARNADO,

LOUISIANA AREA. IN ADDITION THERE IS NO KNOWN

UNIT OF THE DDJ'S LOCATED IN VARNADO, LOUISIANA.

END PAGE TEN.

PAGE ELEVEN

BASED ON THE FACTS AVAILABLE BY INVESTIGATION TO DATE THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE OF JUSTICE WHICH ORIGINATED IN JONESBORO, LOUISIANA THIS YEAR, HAS [redacted] ATTRACTED A CERTAIN ELEMENT OF THE NEGRO RACE BUT THE CLAIMS BY NUMEROUS ORGANIZERS THAT THERE ARE BETWEEN FIVE TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND APPEARED TO BE GROSSLY EXAGGERATED. AS RACIAL DEMONSTRATIONS, [redacted]CHES AND ACTIVITIES CONTINUE TO INCREASE THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, IT CAN BE ANTICIPATED THAT THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS WILL INCREASE. IT CAN READILY BE SEEN FROM INFORMATION DEVELOPED THAT THE CHAPTERS ARE GENERALLY FORMED WHENEVER THERE IS ANY SORT OF RACIAL ACTIVITY OR DEMONSTRATION IN THE PARTICULAR LOCALS, AND WITH THE INCREASE IN PARADES AND DEMONSTRATIONS BY THE NEGROES IN VARIOUS CITIES

END PAGE ELEVEN

PAGE TWELVE

THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF LOUISIANA THE ORGANIZERS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ENDEAVOR TO ESTABLISH CHAPTERS IN THESE PARTICULAR CITIES. AS INFORMATION IS DEVELOPED THE BUREAU WILL BE PROMPTLY ADVISED.

WA... NHH

FBI WASH DC

TU AND CLR

c. Pl...

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 15 1965

TELETYPE

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

[redacted]

FBI BIRMGHAM

3159 PM CST URGENT 7-14-65 WCR

TO DIRECTOR

FROM BIRMINGHAM /157-1446/ 2P

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RM. OO NEW ORLEANS.

RE NEW ORLEANS TELEPHONE CALL TO BIRMINGHAM JULY FOURTEENTH INSTANT.

[redacted] BIRMINGHAM INDICES REFLECT NO REFERENCES TO CAPTIONED GROUP OTHER THAN FURNISHED BY NEW ORLEANS.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFERENCED COMMUNICATION BIRMINGHAM CONDUCTED FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION ON JULY FOURTEENTH INSTANT.

[redacted] b1 AND [redacted] (C)

[redacted]

[redacted] WERE CONTACTED CONCERNING INSTANT MATTER. INFORMANT AND [redacted] ADVISED THEY COULD FURNISH NO INFORMATION CONCERNING ANY ACTIVITY OF THIS GROUP IN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION NOR THE IDENTITY OF ANY BIRMINGHAM DIVISION MEMBERS OF THE GROUP. INFORMANT AND [redacted] ARE COGNIZANT OF AND FOLLOW ACTIVITIES OF MOST RACIAL GROUPS IN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION. BIRMINGHAM WILL FOLLOW MATTER AND FURNISH ANY NEW INFORMATION DEVELOPED.

b7

REC-60 157-2466-2

[redacted] PAGE ONE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 JUL 29 1965
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 7-14-85

54 AUG 5 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE TWO

CONCERNING ARTICLE JULY TWELVE LAST ISSUE OF WALL STREET JOURNAL, BY FRED L. ZIMMERMAN, JOURNAL WRITER, CAPTIONED "RACE AND VIOLENCE", BIRMINGHAM NOTES MAJOR PORTION DEALS WITH RACIAL SITUATION IN LOUISIANA. BIRMINGHAM NOT AWARE OF ACTUAL RACIAL SITUATION IN STATES OTHER THAN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION. RACIAL SITUATION IN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION APPEARS TO BE CALM WITH VARIOUS GROUPS, NEGRO AND WHITE, ATTEMPTING TO SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO RACIAL PROBLEMS THAT WILL BE SATISFACTORY TO ALL CONCERNED.

BIRMINGHAM HAS NO KNOWLEDGE THAT NEGROES IN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION PLAN TO RESORT TO VIOLENT TACTICS OR FOLLOW AN "EYE FOR AN EYE" THEORY. BIRMINGHAM IS OF OPINION THAT MOST INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION DESIRE TO AVOID ALL RACIAL VIOLENCE AND ARE EARNESTLY SEEKING A PEACEFUL ANSWER TO RACE PROBLEMS RATHER THAN THE FORMING OF "ARMED ORGANIZATIONS" AS MENTIONED IN ARTICLE.

COPY BEING FORWARDED TO NEW ORLEANS AIRMAIL REGISTERED.

END

WA JMS

FBI WASH DC

FBI

CONFIDENTIAL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 15 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI JKN MISS

10:57 PM CST URGENT 7-14-65 MJK

TO : DIRECTOR

FROM : JACKSON (157-3465)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gal/jk

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE. RM.

RENOTELEPHONE CALL TO JACKSON JULY FOURTEEN, SIXTYFIVE CONCERNING ARTICLE IN JULY TWELVE NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE, ISSUE OF "THE WALL STREET JOURNAL" CONCERNING CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION.

THE JACKSON DIVISION HAS RECEIVED NO INFORMATION TO INDICATE THAT THERE IS ANY CHAPTER OR MEMBER OF THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE IN MISS. INFORMANTS AND SOURCES WITHIN CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN JACKSON, MISS., CONTACTED ON JULY ELEVEN SIXTYFIVE RELATIVE TO CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION STATED THEY KNEW OF NO SUCH ORGANIZATION IN THE STATE OF MISS.

b7C
b7D

ON JULY FOURTEEN SIXTYFIVE [redacted]

REC-60 157-2466-28

[redacted]

ADVISED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY MADE A SPECIFIC CHECK CONCERNING

END PAGE ONE

9 JUL 29 1965

14 AUG 5 1965

EX-113

cc. Phillips

PAGE TWO

THE POSSIBILITIES OF CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION OPERATING IN MISS., AND FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT THEY WERE. HE STATED THAT HE MADE A SPECIFIC EFFORT TO DETERMINE IF THERE MIGHT BE ANY SUCH ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTIES NEIGHBORING BOGALUSA, LA., BUT FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT THIS ORGANIZATION WAS IN ANY OF THESE COUNTIES.

CHARLES EVERS ADVISED ON JULY FOURTEEN INSTANT CONCERNING THE ABOVE ARTICLE THAT THE WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORTER ONLY RECORDED A PART OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH EVERS. EVERS STATED HE HAD REFERRED TO THE NEGROES IN MISSISSIPPI WHO WERE DEFENDING THEMSELVES FROM VIOLENCE, THESE INDIVIDUALS EVERS STATED HE WAS GLAD THEY WERE AROUND. STATED HE KNEW OF NO CAPTIONED GROUPS IN EXISTENCE IN MISSISSIPPI.

AIR MAIL COPY TO NEW ORLEANS.

END

WA HFL

FBI WASH DC

CLRP

FBI WASH DC

[redacted] CHARLT

906

FBI CHARLT

PM URGENT 7-14-65 DKR

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

[redacted]

FROM: CHARLOTTE (157-882)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 14 1965
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1/SP2/JH

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RACIAL MATTER.

[redacted] RE NEW ORLEANS TELEPHONE CALL TODAY PERTAINING TO [redacted] ARTICAL, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, MONDAY JULY TWELVE LAST.

[redacted] PAGE ONE, ABOVE ISSUE, WALL STREET JOURNAL, CONTAINS [redacted] STATEMENT DEACONS HAVE FORMED GROUPS IN SEVERAL TOWNS IN [redacted] S.C. AND IN TWO TWNS IN WESTERN N.C.

[redacted] DURHAM MORNING HERALD, DAILY NEWSPAPER, DURHAM, N.C., IN JULY ONE LAST ISSUE REPORTED ON NATIONAL CONVENTION CORE WHICH TOOK PLACE DURHAM, N.C., JULY ONE THROUGH FIVE LAST. ARTICLE REPORTED THAT JAMES FARMER, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF CORE, HAD STATED HE WOULD NOT CONDEMN THE DEACONS ORGANIZATION DESCRIBED AS A MOVEMENT WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN ORGANIZED IN THE DEEP SOUTH. DEACONS, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, ARE ARMED VIGILANTE GROUPS SET UP TO PROTECT NEGRO NEIGHBORHOODS AGAINST [redacted] WHITE MILITANTS AND INADEQUATE LAW ENFORCEMENT.

[redacted] END PAGE ONE

REC 25 157-2466 29

9 JUL 29 1965

66 AUG 4 1965

PAGE TWO

CE 157-882

JULY THREE LAST ISSUE DURHAM MORNING HEARLD CONTAINS ARTICLE SHOWING ERNEST THOMAS OF MISS., A CHARTER MEMBER OF DEACONS, APPEARED BEFORE CORE CONVENTION AND BLASTED KKK AND REDNECK TECHNIQUES. HE DECLARED PERIOD OF NEGRO NON-VIOLENCE IS OVER. THOMAS CHARGED WHITE MEN HAVE GIVEN NEGRO NEW LAWS AND PRIVILEGES BUT NEGROES HAVE BEEN BEATEN WHEN THEY TRIED TO USE THEM. HE SAID WE MUST HAVE THE DEACONS TO LET THE KLAN KNOW THAT NEGROES AS A WHOLE ARE NOT NON-VIOLENT. ARTICLE SHOWS THAT CORE DIRECTOR JAMES FARMER VOICED HIS SUPPORT OF DEACONS. ALSO, DR. LONNIE X, BLACK MUSLIM MINISTER OF WASHINGTON, ALSO SUPPORTED DEACONS.

NO ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE DURING CORE CONVENTION OR INFORMATION RECEIVED AS TO ANY CHAPTERS OF CAPTIONED ORGINIZATION WITH CHARLOTTE TERRITORYAND NO INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM INFORMANTS OR SOURCES THAT SUCH CHAPTERS OR UNITS EXIST.

LOGICAL SOURCES AND INFORMANTS BEING CONTACTED IN EFFORT TO DETERMINE IF ANY UNITS OF THIS ORGANIZATION DO EXIST WITHIN CHARLOTTE DIVISION.

INFORMATION CONCERNINGCORE CONVENTION, INCLUDING FORE-GOING INFORMATION RE DEACONS SUBMITTED IN LHM BY CHARLOTTE

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

JULY TWELVE LAST CAPTIONED "NATIONAL CONVENTION OF CORE,

DURHAM, N.C., JULY ONE-FIVE, NINETEENSIXTYFIVE, RACIAL

MATTERS."

COPY TO SAVANNAH AIR MAIL.

CIZXX

CORR PAGE ONE LLNE 5 WORD 5 SHD. BE TOWNS

CORR PAGE TWO LINE 1 WOREXXOXXWORD 5 SHD. BE DURHAM

WA...JPM

WASH DC

TU CLR.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 14 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

P

WASH DC

FBI JACKSVLE

5-44 PM EST URGENT 7/14/65 JLC

TO DIRECTOR

FROM JACKSONVILLE /157-NEW/ 1P

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RACIAL MATTERS.

RECALL FROM ASAC SYLVESTER FROM NEW ORLEANS TODAY.

JACKSONVILLE HAS NO INFO IN INDICES CONCERNING FORMATION OF ANY OF CAPTIONED GROUPS IN NORTHERN FLORIDA. INFORMANTS HAVE NOT INDICATED ANY SUCH ACTION BEING TAKEN.

JACKSONVILLE WILL BE ALERT FOR SUCH GROUPS AND WILL ADVISE THE BUREAU IMMEDIATELY IF ANY SUCH ACTIVITY IS STARTED.

AIRMAIL COPY TO NEW ORLEANS.

END

WA BMS

FBI WASH DC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gal/jr

157-24663

JUL 29 1965
FBI
RECD

66 AUG 2 1965

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATI
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 14 1965

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI MOBILE

TELETYPE

947 PM CST URGENT 7/14/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR AND NEW ORLEANS

FROM MOBILE /157-1017/

[redacted]ACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE. RM.

[redacted] RE PHONE CALL FROM ASAC SYLVESTER, NEW ORLEANS TODAY, REFERENCE ARTICLE IN WALL STREET JOURNAL JULY TWLEVE LAST CAPTIONED " RACE AND VIOLENCE".

[redacted] MOBILE HAS DEVELOPED NO INFORMATION TO REFLECT THAT ANY CHAPTER INSTANT ORGANIZATION IN EXISTENCE MOBILE DIVISION. AGENTS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REMAIN ALERT FOR INFO INDICATING FORMATION SUCH GROUPS. INFORMANTS AND SOURCES ARE BIENG [redacted]LIKEWISE ALERTED AND IF ANY POSITIVE INFO RECEIVED, BUREAU AND NEW ORLEANS WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED.

END

WA LRA

FBI WASH DC

NO RJB

FBI NEW ORLS

TU ALL CLEG BXI H† COGX

[redacted]6AUG 4

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

REC 25 157-2466 31

9 JUL 29 1965

MAY BE USED UNDER
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) DATE: 8/2/65

FROM: SAC, JACKSONVILLE (157-1074) (RUC)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS
(OO: NEW ORLEANS)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

Re Bureau airtel to New Orleans, Etal, dated 7/19/65.

On 7/16/65, [redacted] was contacted by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] concerning investigation on another matter. During the conversation, [redacted] was asked if he was familiar with captioned group, and he replied that he was. He stated that captioned group has on occasion in the past worked with CORE. They are a group of normally local businessmen who participate in picket lines and protest marches in a non-violent manner. If violence breaks out, this group combats violence with violence. They will attack local white residences just as hate groups and klans will attack Negro residences. He added that they have most noticeably been active in Louisiana and that he has been contacted by a representative of the group who was inquiring to determine if they were needed in the North Florida area. [redacted] related that he told them they were not needed at this time in North Florida and to the best of his knowledge, there are no such groups active in the state of Fla.

b7C
b7D

On the dates indicated the following persons were contacted by SA [redacted] and advised they had no information concerning the existence of a group of captioned organization being in existence in the Florida area:

On 7/23/65, [redacted] Tallahassee, Fla.;

On 7/27/65, [redacted] Quincy, Fla.;

REC-50 157-2466-32

On 7/27/65, [redacted] Quincy, Fla.

16 AUG 5 1965

2 - Bureau
2 - New Orleans
1 - Jacksonville
VLW/jeb
(5)

AUG 12 1965

SUBV-CONTROL
INT-SEC

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

JK 157-1074

On the contact, all of the above persons advised that should they obtain any information concerning captioned organization they would immediately notify the FBI.

On 7/26/65, [redacted] contacted SA [redacted] concerning another matter and during the course of this contact advised that there had been quite a bit of talk recently concerning the organization of a group of the Deacons of Defense and Justice possibly in Jefferson and Madison Counties in North Florida. He stated, however, that he was discouraging the organization of this group adding that he did not feel they were needed and would serve no useful purpose in North Florida at this time. He stated that to the best of his knowledge there is no such group currently operating in the state of Fla., and no formative steps being taken in an attempt to organize such a group.

b7C
b7D

In view of the fact there appears to be no such group currently active in the North Florida area, this matter is being considered RUC and should any information come to the attention of the Jacksonville Office concerning this group it will immediately be made known to the Bureau and New Orleans.

FD-39 (Rev. 12-13-56)

FBI

Date: 8/4/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

"CHANGED"
(1) DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka
Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc.
RM

Title changed to reflect correct name of organization as determined through investigation Jonesboro, Louisiana.

Enclosed for San Francisco are two photostatic copies of the Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc.

Informant

[redacted]

b7c
b7

(3) Bureau
2- Birmingham
2- Charlotte
2- Jackson
2- Jacksonville
2- Miami
2- San Francisco (Enc.-2)
2- Savannah
2- New Orleans

EX.-107

REC-41 157-2466 33
MCT-24

AUG 22 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP8 Ellis

RAH:sms
(19)

C. C. Wick

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M _____ Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

13 AUG 26 1965

~~SERV. CONTROL~~

NO 157-3290/sms

For the information of San Francisco [redacted] further stated that THOMAS assumed Vice Presidency of the Deacons of Defense and Justice when the application for charter was initiated [redacted] THOMAS was to be figurehead only but assumed more power than originally anticipated. THOMAS [redacted] began making public statements to the effect that the Deacons of Defense and Justice advocate the use of violence and that they have sources for automatic weapons in Houston, Texas, and Chicago, Illinois.

b7C
b7D

According to [redacted] the Deacons of Defense and Justice of Jonesboro is entirely a Negro organization with branches in Bogalusa and Houma, Louisiana. Their efforts have been directed toward peaceful activity in the area of civic improvement to gain recognition, and they advocate violence as a defensive measure only.

[redacted] stated that [redacted]

[redacted]

Name	[redacted]
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Place of Birth	[redacted]
Height	
Weight	
Eyes	
Hair	

S.S.N. [redacted]

CALIF

ILL

[redacted]

NO 157-3290/sms

[redacted]

Relatives [redacted]

Residence

Social Security #
Military Service

Employment

LA

b7C

LEADS

SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1) Through [redacted] locate [redacted] and interview him in an effort to determine in detail the objections of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. and how these objections are to be obtained, with particular emphasis on public use of firearms, potential for violence, any subversive and/or outside influence and whether patrol and guards have been utilized and under what conditions.

b7C
b7D

2) Develop all information concerning the allegation [redacted] that this group has contact in Chicago and Houston for the acquisition of automatic weapons.

3) Determine [redacted] activities in the San Francisco area and identify any groups or organizations with which he is affiliated

NO 157-3290/sms

4) Determine [redacted] itinerary and approximate date of return to Jonesboro, Louisiana.

5) Attempt to determine through interview [redacted] source of income.

It should be noted by San Francisco that the Bureau by airtel dated 2/26/65, has instructed that through interviews of all members of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. that efforts should be made to develop sources relative to the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. and be alert to discourage illegal arming and illegal acts by this group. The identity of [redacted] should not be disclosed b7C [redacted] b7D should not be discussed.

SAC, Los Angeles (157-1184) CONFIDENTIAL 8/17/65

Director, FBI (157-2466)

1 - Mr. Trainor
1 - Mr. B. P. Murph
1 - Mr. Martin

DEACONS OF DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gcl/fv 7-17-8
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-17-85

ReLAlet and letterhead memorandum (LHM) 8/5/65, copies to Atlanta, captioned "Cominfil, SNCC"; and Los Angeles airtel and LHM 6/15/65 captioned "Deacons for Defense and Justice," copies to New Orleans. Enclosed for the information of New Orleans is one copy of referenced letter and LHM, 8/5/65.

Reairtel sets forth information that Charles Sims of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Bogalusa, Louisiana, was in Los Angeles in June, 1965, and appeared on the Louis Lomax television program on 6/13/65. News articles concerning the Deacons appeared in the "Los Angeles Times" of 6/13/65. The Deacons is an all-Negro organization formed for the claimed purpose of self-protection against Klan violence. Its members are encouraged to carry arms, and during recent demonstrations in Bogalusa, Louisiana, Deacons were observed carrying walkie-talkies.

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

1 - Atlanta
1 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enclosures - 2)

JLM:bp
(8)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

REC-110 157-2466-34

CONFIDENTIAL

19 AUG 16 1965

AUG 16 1965 COMM-FBI

AUG 18 1965

MAIL ROOM ✓ TELETYPE UNIT

Letter to SAC, Los Angeles
Re: DEACONS OF DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE
157-2466

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] (C) b1

CONFIDENTIAL

FBI

Date: 8/9/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-NEW) (P)

RE: THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS
RACIAL MATTERS
DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

In the August 8, 1965, issue of the San Antonio Light, daily, San Antonio, Texas, newspaper an article appeared stating that MARK KLEIN, a Cornell University student is responsible for the formation of captioned grop in Austin, Texas, the purpose of which is to aid the "Deacons for Defense and Justice." KLEIN described the "Deacons" as "an armed Negro self-defense group." [redacted]

b7

[redacted]

LEADS

ALBANY

AT ALBANY, NEW YORK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-12-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

[redacted] Also advise San Antonio Division any information of value regarding subject available in files of Albany Division.

b7

157-2466-35

REC-54

3 - Bureau
2 - Albany
2 - Baltimore
3 - San Antonio (157-NEW)
(1 - 157-310)
JJC / jb
(10)

MCT-45

14 AUG 11 1965

ICC 808 RB

Approved: T. C. Wick

Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

57 AUG 19 1965

TYPED

SA 157-NEW

BALTIMORE

AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Will advise San Antonio any information available regarding [redacted].

SAC, San Antonio 8/16/65

1 - Mr. Martin

Director, FBI (157-2466)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gel/fr

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

ReSiairtel 8/9/65 captioned "The Committee to Aid the Deacons," with copies to Albany and Baltimore; Buairtel to New Orleans 7/19/65.

Enclosed for New Orleans is a Xerox copy of referenced San Antonio airtel.

Enclosed for San Antonio, Baltimore and Albany is a Xerox copy of referenced Bureau airtel 7/19/65 and a Xerox copy of a "Wall Street Journal" article 7/12/65 concerning captioned organization.

San Antonio should promptly submit letterhead memorandum (LHM), with copies to New Orleans, regarding attempts to form a committee to aid the Deacons of Defense and Justice in Austin, Texas, as set forth in reairtel 8/9/65. Local dissemination should be made to Secret Service and the military intelligence.

Upon receipt of background data concerning [redacted] and further information regarding attempts to organize the Deacons in Austin, Texas, San Antonio should consider interview [redacted]. A search of Bureau indices will be made upon receipt of [redacted]

Enclosures (2)

EX-100

2 - Albany - Enclosures (2)
2 - Baltimore - Enclosures (2)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) - Enclosure

REC 27 157-2466-36

NOTE:

19 AUG 16 1965

San Antonio has furnished information concerning attempts, by Mark Klein of Cornell University, to organize a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice in Austin, Texas.

The Deacons is an all-Negro organization formed in Louisiana as protection against Klan violence. Leads are outstanding at Baltimore and Albany [redacted] b7C

JLM:deh
(10)

MAILED 8
AUG 13 1965
COMM-FBI

55 AUG 19 1965

RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA., CHAIRMAN
JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS.
HARRY F. BYRD, VA.
STUART SYMINGTON, MO.
HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH.
SAM J. ERVIN, JR., N.C.
STROM THURMOND, S.C.
CLAIR ENGLE, CALIF.
HOWARD W. CANNON, NEV.
ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA.
STEPHEN M. YOUNG, OHIO
DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII
LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, MASS.
MARGARET CHASE SMITH, MAINE
J. GLENN BEALL, JR., MD.
BARRY GOLDWATER, ARIZ.
CLIFFORD P. CASE, N.J.
HARRY L. WINGATE, JR., CHIEF CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

August 11, 1965

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

It will be greatly appreciated if you will give your careful study and attention to the enclosed and let me have a full report in duplicate.

Kindly return the enclosure with your reply.

Sincerely yours,

John Stennis

John Stennis
United States Senator

JS:b
Enclosure
Letter and enclosure of [redacted] b7C
Jackson, Mississippi

REC 1 157-2466-37

EX 105 5 AUG 18 1965

ENCLOSURE

CORRESPONDENCE

AUG 19 1965

[redacted] b7C

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JACKSON

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

[redacted] b7C

WASHINGTON OFFICE

RECEIVED AUG 6 1965 JOHN STENNIS

August 2, 1965

Honorable John Stennis
Senator, State of Mississippi
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Stennis:

During the past several weeks in many national publications an organization known as the Deacons for Defense and Justice has received quite a bit of publicity. In both a recent issue of LIFE Magazine and NEWSWEEK, there have been references to the use of automatic weapons, grenades and mortars. I believe that such weapons in the hands of ordinary citizens without a proper licensing of the individual and the weapon is illegal. My question to you is: can you find out from the FBI if they are aware of these statements and if all of this has been checked out to the letter of the law?

You have certainly been getting good publicity in these parts and I think that the whole nation is most appreciative of your fine efforts. The next time you are home we certainly hope that we will have the opportunity of visiting with you.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[redacted] b7C

[redacted] b7C

[redacted]

ENCLOSURE

157-2466-37

August 13, 1965

REC 1 157-2466-39

EX 105

Honorable John Stennis
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gal/gv

My dear Senator:

I received your letter of August 11th enclosing a communication from State Representative [redacted] concerning the Deacons for Defense and Justice.

b7C

While I certainly would like to be of service to [redacted], information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice. He may be assured, however, that the FBI is ever aware of its responsibilities in the internal security and civil rights fields, and whenever a violation of a law within our jurisdiction occurs, we will make every effort to continue to discharge our obligations with the highest degree of thoroughness, dispatch and objectivity.

b7C

In response to your request, I am returning the material you forwarded.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 2
AUG 13 1965
COMM-FBI

Enclosures (2)
1 - New Orleans - Enclosures (2)
1 - Jackson - Enclosures (2)
(see note next page)
DTP:rsp (6)

AUG 24 1965
MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

AUG 13 3 57 PM '65
FBI
READING ROOM

Honorable John Stennis

NOTE: Senator Stennis is on the Special Correspondents' List. [redacted] is not identifiable in Bufiles. The New Orleans Office is conducting a current investigation regarding Deacons for Defense and Justice to determine its activities and leadership. It is a Negro group formed in Louisiana with one Ernest Thomas as apparently its spokesman. He has advised Negroes that they should arm themselves and form roving patrols which will assist Negroes when being arrested. Fees and dues of the group are used to purchase ammunition, radio equipment and literature.

b7c

FBI

Date: 8/17/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (157-New)

SUBJECT: THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS
RM

Re SA airtel, dated 8/9/65.

Baltimore indices are negative on [redacted]. b7C

3 - Bureau
2 - San Antonio
1 - Baltimore
MEG:ers
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gallfr

REC 45 157-2466-39

EX-103

14 AUG 18 1965

ICC 805 RTS

INFORMED

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

53 AUG 2 1965

FBI

CONFIDENTIAL

Date: 8/12/65

Transmit the following in AIRTEL

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____ (Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (157-new) (P)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gu/ [illegible]
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2, 4.2, [illegible]
DATE OF REVIEW 8-12-85

APPEARANCE OF ROBERT HICKS,
VICE-PRESIDENT, BOGALUSA (LA.)
DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
SPONSORED BY GROUP ON ADVANCED
LEADERSHIP (GOAL), 8/22/65,
DETROIT, MICH.
RACIAL MATTERS

5-Philadelphia
Trapnor

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum. Two copies of the LHM are being furnished the New Orleans Office.

One copy of LHM being furnished G-2 and two copies being furnished U.S. Secret Service, both Detroit, Mich.

[redacted] (c) b1

This matter will be followed and further letterhead memoranda submitted after appearance of HICKS.

ENCLOSURE

REC-32 157-2466-40

EX 105

10 AUG 19 1965

3 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (Rm)
2 - New Orleans (Enc. 2) (Rm)
4 - Detroit
1 - 157-706 (POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted] (c) b1

TPD:sal
(9)

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC SER.
DEPT: ISD, CRD, [redacted]
DATE FORW: 8/26/65
HOW FORW: [illegible]
BY: [illegible]

1cc & cc LHM
[redacted] 808 RB

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-448237

AUG 20 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES NOTIFIED

Approved: AUG 26 1965 Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M _____ Per _____

CONFIDENTIAL

Detroit PD and the Michigan State Police are aware of the contents in the LHM.

The LHM is being classified "Confidential" inasmuch as information furnished by sources could reasonably result in the identification of confidential informants of continuing value and compromise effectiveness thereof.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reply, Please Refer to

Detroit, Michigan
August 12, 1965

Re: Appearance of Robert Hicks,
Vice-President, Bogalusa (Louisiana)
Deacons for Defense and Justice
Sponsored by Group on Advanced
Leadership (GOAL), August 22, 1965,
Detroit, Michigan

[redacted] that Robert Hicks, Vice-President of the Bogalusa (Louisiana) Deacons for Defense and Justice, will speak at Detroit, Michigan, on Sunday, August 22, 1965, at a freedom dinner sponsored by GOAL. According to this source, the Deacons for Defense and Justice is a rifle club which was recently organized in the Bogalusa, Louisiana, area, the membership of which is composed entirely of Negroes and the purpose of which is to protect civil rights workers in that area. b1 (c)

[redacted] that the purpose of the affair is to raise funds and to honor Mr. Hicks, the funds raised allegedly to be utilized by Mr. Hicks and the Bogalusa Voters League in connection with their activities in Louisiana. b1 (c)

The GOAL was filed as a non-profit corporation with the Michigan Corporation and Securities Commission on April 19, 1962, with Certificate Number 112493. The purpose or purposes for which the corporation was formed are as follows:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

1. To promote the educational, social and economic interests of the total community.

2. To purchase, own, hold, rent, lease, mortgage, sell, convey and otherwise lawfully acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property or any interest therein, as may be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the objects of this corporation.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible] 7-17-85
DECLASSIFICATION - FCIM 11, 1-2. 8.2 D
DATE OF REVIEW 8-12-85

XEROX AUG 20 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

ENCLOSURE 157-1-2466 40

Re: Appearance of Robert Hicks,
Sponsored by GOAL, 8/22/65

3. To solicit, sell or give memberships.

4. To solicit and/or receive donations and gifts.

RICHARD BULLOCK HENRY, President, was shown as the first Resident Agent. The corporation, at the time of incorporation, owned no real estate but claimed to have $1,000.00 in cash.

[redacted]

b1

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FD-204 (Rev 5-1-59)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	8/17/65	1/5 - 8/16/65

TITLE OF CASE

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc.

[redacted]

REPORT MADE BY

SA [redacted] b7C

TYPED BY

mlw; jas; cem; mtp; mlm

CHARACTER OF CASE

RM

REC 16 EX 110

REFERENCES:

New Orleans teletype to Director, 1/6/65, and Bureau airtel to New Orleans, 7/19/65.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

- P -

LEADS:

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 sal 1 f4 7-17-85
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-17-85

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with [redacted] the Deacons of Defense and Justice of Bogalusa to be aware of the activities of that organization in Washington Parish.

b7C
b7D

2-7 to NO 8/24/65 for appropriate action. Furnish SA cc of rept. for info. They are conducting a most intensive inquiry concerning the Deacons and their activities as set forth in rept. of Supervisor [illegible] of Sept. 1965.

(COVER PAGE)

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-34074-33

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
		157-2466-4
		2 AUG 23 1965

REC 45
EX.-107
SEP 1 1965
XEROX

COPIES MADE:

4 - Bureau (157-2466)
1 - Birmingham (157-1446)
1 - Charlotte (157-882)
1 - Jackson (157-3465)
1 - Jacksonville (157-1074)
1 - Mobile (157-1017)
1 - Savannah (157-731)
(COPIES CONTINUED COVER PAGE B)

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT					
AGENCY	AG	AG			
REQUEST RECD.					
SENT/FWD.	8/16/65	8/16/65	8/16/65	8/16/65	
HOW FWD.	RLS	RLS	RLS		
BY	JAM	C.D.	JAM	C.D.	

NOTATIONS

INT./SEC.

CONFIDENTIAL

NO 157-3290

CONFIDENTIAL

(COPIES CONTINUED)

1 - ICG, New Orleans, Louisiana
1 - Secret Service, New Orleans, Louisiana
1 - Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, New Orleans, Louisiana
4 - New Orleans (157-3290)

AT HOMER, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with [redacted] the Deacons of Defense and Justice in order to be aware of activities of that organization in that area of Louisiana.

b7C
b7D

AT JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

Will re-contact [redacted] and obtain a copy of the by-laws of the Deacons of Defense and Justice. Will maintain contact with [redacted] the Deacons of Defense and Justice in order to be aware of any additional chapters authorized by the Deacons of Defense and Justice in any other area of Louisiana or in any other state.

(C) [redacted]

b1

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Copies of this report are being furnished to listed offices for information inasmuch as there is a possibility that additional investigation will be requested by these offices.

B
(COVER PAGE)

CONFIDENTIAL

NO 157-3290
MAK:mnw

CONFIDENTIAL

Copies are being furnished to ICG, Secret Service, and Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, New Orleans, Louisiana, in view of their interest in this organization.

It is noted that the date of typing of the FD-302's in this report has been delayed which is due to the fact that rough draft inserts were submitted for incorporation into this report.

The following interviews with [redacted] and [redacted] are being set forth on the administrative pages inasmuch as they specifically requested that their information be kept confidential. b7C b7D

C
(COVER PAGE)

CONFIDENTIAL

FD-529 (10-20-78)

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XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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XXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

FD-204 (Rev. 8-8-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

Copy to: 1 - ICG, New Orleans, Louisiana
1 - Secret Service, New Orleans, Louisiana
1 - Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, New Orleans, Louisiana

Report of: SA [redacted] b7C Office: NEW ORLEANS
Date: August 17, 1965

Field Office File No.: New Orleans 157-3290 Bureau File No.: 157-2466

Title: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

Character: RACIAL MATTERS

Synopsis: Deacons of Defense and Justice formed at Jonesboro, Louisiana, during the summer of 1964, following incidents involving racial activities which incidents created tension in the area. Organization formed by Negro leaders in Jonesboro for the announced purpose of protecting Negroes and whites from illegal acts and from acts designed to terrorize the Negro community. Organization chartered with main headquarters at Jonesboro, Louisiana. Associate chapters at Bogalusa and Homer, Louisiana, and inquiries received from other groups concerning movement but no action taken to approve additional chapters. [redacted] of Deacons of Defense and Justice assert that the organization is a defensive group with no intention to commit or encourage any offensive acts. [redacted] of organization denied purchase of firearms for the group and further denied knowledge of any source of contacts for this purpose. [redacted] of Deacons of Defense and Justice disclaims any connection with or influence by subversive elements. Interviews with [redacted] b7C b7D

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CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gcl/fl 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM II, 1-4.2.2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-17-85

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NO 157-3290
MAK:mnw

at Jonesboro, Louisiana, set forth. Identity of some leaders and members of Deacons of Defense and Justice at Bogalusa and Homer, Louisiana, set forth. No information developed to indicate Deacons of Defense and Justice have automatic weapons or hand grenades.

- P -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Jonesboro Chapter Deacons of Defense and Justice	4 - 35
Bogalusa Chapter Deacons of Defense and Justice	36 - 44
Homer Chapter Deacons of Defense and Justice	45 - 47
Miscellaneous	48 - 49

CONFIDENTIAL

NO 157-3290
MAK:mnw

CONFIDENTIAL

DETAILS:

This investigation was predicated upon receipt of information from [redacted] who advised on January 5, 1965, that Deacons of Defense and Justice had been organized in Jonesboro, Louisiana, and that its purposes were similar to those of the Congress of Racial Equality, but that the organization was more militant than CORE and that it would be more inclined to use violence in dealing with opposition encountered in Civil Rights matters. [redacted] stated that the organization was founded to promote Negro Civil Rights.

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 CONFIDENTIAL Date 8/17/65

[redacted]

[redacted] furnished the following information: [redacted]

The Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) was formed in the summer of 1964 at Jonesboro, Louisiana by a small group of Negroes during a period of extreme racial tention at Jonesboro, for the purpose of protection of Negro and white citizens from white extremists. He referred specifically to harassement type activities on the part of the Ku Klux Klan who had been driving caravans of cars through the Negro quarter containing hooded occupants and escorted by local law enforcement vehicles He explained that these acts terrorized the Negro residents to the extent that they felt some type of defensive measures were necessary to protect their homes and families. Accordingly a group of approximately 10 to 15 responsible Negro citizens met and formed the DDJ naming the following officers:

PERCY LEE BRADFORD, President; EARNEST THOMAS, Vice President; CHARLEY LEE WHITE, Financial Secretary; COSETTA JACKSON, Treasurer.

The group sought and obtained a charter through the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of Louisiana which charter was issued in March, 1965. [redacted] the purposes of the organization, other than the defense against harrassment, are to promote responsible leadership and educate people to the duties and obligations of good citizenship in the community. Other objectives of the DDJ include equal rights for all and elimination of descrimination and violence. [redacted] was hopeful that the objectives of the organization could be derived through discussions with city officials and other interested parties. [redacted] stated emphatically that the DDJ is a defersive organization with no intentions of instituting violence or offensive action of any type in seeking its objectives. He further stated applicants for membership must be American citizens, age 21 or over and approved by the membership .

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8/3/65 at Jonesboro, Louisiana File # 157-3290

SA [redacted] and b7C
SA [redacted] /cem Date dictated 8/11/65

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Individuals of poor reputation, troublemakers and the like are not accepted. Group meetings are normally held once a week at various homes or meeting places in the Negro community.

With regard to patrols, [redacted] stated no assignments are made to accompany any type of demonstration, however, quite often some of the members of the DDJ are present as spectators at such activities just as any other citizen might be.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] stated currently there are approximately 25 to 35 members of the DDJ who are considered inactive due to non payment of dues and other causes He stated voting privileges are extended to active members only The initiation fee is $1 and the monthly dues are $2. [redacted] furnished the followin list of members who are currently active in the Jonesboro, [redacted] Louisiana chapter:

MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

[redacted]

[redacted] stated the Jonesboro group maintains no [redacted] official office [redacted]

[redacted] stated the organization has no application form for use by prospective members.

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[redacted] advised that similar DDJ groups have been formed in Bogalusa and Homer, Louisiana which were granted certificates by the parent Jonesboro organization The certificates grant authority for those groups to use the name DDJ and operate under the provisions of the charter granted the Jonesboro group. [redacted] stated the parent group furnishes advice and assistance concerning policy to those chapters. He stated no other groups have been authorized to use the name DDJ in Louisiana or any other state although he has received inquiries concerning the formation of similar groups at Monroe, Ferriday and New Orleans, Louisiana. He stated careful consideration is given to granting certificates to other groups in order to insure that the policies and objectives of the parent group are adhered to. [redacted] stated that CHARLIE SIMMS is the President of the Bogalusa Chapter and that CHARLES DODD is President of the Homer, Louisiana Chapter of the DDJ. He stated he did not know the current membership of the Bogalusa and Homer groups

b7C
b7D

MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

[redacted] was questioned concerning statements made by EARNEST THOMAS, Vice President of the Jonesboro DDJ and others, which have appeared in national periodicals, concerning the organization. [redacted] stated much of the information attributed to these people is false and exaggerated particularly in reference to alleged secrecy of the organization, purchase of firearms in Chicago and Houston, the number of chapters which have been created and other statements indicating the DDJ has offensive motives He stated he had not seen any of the publications referring to the DDJ or read any of the statements attributed to THOMAS and other DDJ leaders [redacted] stated he is very concerned about the effects that irresponsible publicity might have on DDJ and he plans to make every effort to correct the situation through talks with those responsible for such publicity.

[redacted] stated he believes the statements made recently by THOMAS were made to exploit the DDJ for his own personal publicity and financial gain He stated THOMAS is presently in California, however, he is not representing the DDJ and his purpose there is unknown [redacted]

[redacted] stated the Jonesboro DDJ owns eight walkie-talkie radio units which are presently distributed among the membership which are to be used in the event of an emergency which would require the group to assemble on short notice He stated the chapter owns no other technical equipment or arms.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] stated there are no persons, to his knowledge, in the DDJ who are sympathetic with or influenced by Black Nationalist or any other subversive group.

[redacted] made available a blank identification card which is carried by all DDJ members upon acceptance into the organization. It may be noted that an official card which is issued to a particular member also bears the imprint of a seal which is not affixed to the card until it is issued.

[redacted] stated by laws for the DDJ are presently under preparation and it is hoped that within a week same will be submitted to the membership of the organization for approval after which a copy will be made available to the FBI.

He stated the DDJ chapter at Bogalusa and Homer, Louisiana, each paid a $100 entrance fee to join the organization and they are supposed to pay a sum equal to ten per cent of their collected monthly dues to the parent organization to defray expense of supplies, etc. which are provided by the Jonesboro chapter.

NO 157-3290/cem
5

[redacted] stated when the organization was first begun, group leaders were appointed for the purpose of rallying membership in the event of a racial incident. The stated this practice has been abandoned and the organization no longer has group leaders or similar functionaries.

It was tactfully pointed out to [redacted] that he should exert his influence to discourage any arming or other illegal acts on the part of DDJ members [redacted]

Following is a description [redacted]

Race	Negro
Date of birth	[redacted]
Place of birth	
Height	
Weight	
Build	
Complexion	
Social Security	

FD 302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

1

Date June 16, 1965

[redacted] b7C b7D

Corporations Division, Secretary of State, State of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, made available a true and correct copy of the charter of Decons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated.

CONFIDENTIAL

On 6/11/65 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana File# NO 157-3290

SA [redacted]/dcs b7C 6/11/65

by Date dictated

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

State of Louisiana

WADE O. MARTIN, JR.

I, the undersigned Secretary of State, of the State of Louisiana

DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the annexed and following is a True and Correct copy of the Charter of

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.,

A Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro,

As shown by comparison with document filed and recorded in this Office on March 9, 1965.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of my Office to be affixed at the City of Baton Rouge on,

June 11, 1965.

Wade O. Martin Jr.

CONFIDENTIAL *Secretary of State*

CONFIDENTIAL

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

OF

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF OUACHITA

BE IT KNOWN, That on this the 5th day of the Month of March, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Five:

BEFORE ME, a Notary Public, in and for this Parish and State, personally came and appeared the several parties of full age of majority whose signatures are subscribed, who declared in the presence of the undersigned competent witnesses, that availing themselves of the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Sections 12:101 - 12:155, they do hereby organize a nonprofit corporation as defined in Revised Statute 12:101 (8) under and in accordance with these articles of incorporation.

ARTICLE I. "NAME"

The name of this corporation is "Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc."

ARTICLE II. "PURPOSES"

This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes: To instruct, train, teach and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principals of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United State and the State of Louisiana, as well as the

CONFIDENTIAL

duties of the citizen to the community and the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen: To further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law.

ARTICLE III. "DURATION"

This corporation shall enjoy corporate existence for a period of ninety-nine (99) years from date hereof.

ARTICLE IV. "REGISTERED OFFICE"

The location and post office address of its registered office shall be: Amos Service Station, (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

ARTICLE V. "REGISTERED AGENTS"

The full names and post office addresses of its registered agents are:

1. Earnest Thomas, P. O. Box 472, Jonesboro, Louisiana.
2. Elmo Jacobs, P. O. Box 124, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

CONFIDENTIAL

ARTICLE VI. "[illegible] OF MEMBERSHIP"

This corporation [illegible] without capital stock [illegible] of membership. The

FD-529 (10-20-78)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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- [ ] Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- [ ] Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- [ ] Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.
- ____ Page(s) referred for consulation to the following government agency(ies); _____ _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.
- ____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): _____
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- [ ] The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages: _____

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X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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FBI/DOJ

membership and persons [illegible]

signed incorporators and all persons hereinafter who apply for membership and satisfactory show that they are dedicated to the proposition of protecting through any [illegible] legal means those rights granted by appropriate [illegible] to [illegible] citizens of the United States of America and particularly members of minority groups and

CONFIDENTIAL

2

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]o accepted as members by a majority of the members of this corporation present and voting at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE VII. "[illegible] OF DIRECTORS"

The affairs of this corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of five (5) members of this corporation from the time of incorporation until said number is changed by an amendment to the article or by-laws of this corporation and the following shall constitute the first Board of Directors:

1. Percy Lee Bradford — P. O. Box 95, Jonesboro, Louisiana
2. Earnest Thomas — P. O. Box 492, Jonesboro, Louisiana
3. Charlie White — P. O. Box 733, Jonesboro, Louisiana
4. Cosetta Jackson — General Delivery, Jonesboro, Louisi
5. Elmo Jacobs — P. O. Box 124, Jonesboro, Louisiana

The qualification, term of office, manner of election, compensation, powers and duties of the directors, the time and place and manner of calling, giving notice and of conducting dire meetings and number of directors which shall constitute a quorum, shall be prescribed by the by-laws.

ARTICLE VII. "POWER AND CAPACITY"

This corporation shall have the capacity to act possess by natural person and shall have authority to perform those acts which are necessary and proper to accomplish the purposes express or implied in those articles or that may be incidental thereto an shall have all the power, authority and capacity of a nonprofit corporation as provided for by Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 shall have the power and authority to [redacted] this corporat property in trust as provided by law, to sue and be sued in the corporate name, to make and use a corporate seal, to hold, purcha lease, mortgage, sell and receive by donation or otherwise, real,

CONFIDENTIAL

CONTINUED

personal and mixed property, to borrow money, to issue, negotiate, sell and pledge evidences of indebtedness and to secure same by pledges, deeds of trust or mortgage, of both the whole or any par of the property of this corporation; and to receive, collect and pay out money for the accomplishment of its corporate purposes.

ARTICLE IX. "OFFICERS"

The Board of Directors shall elect the following officer A President, who shall be chairman of the Board of Directors, a Vi President, who shall be Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Board shall regulate and collect d from all members according to its by-laws made for said purpose. The Board of Directors may create new offices and regulate the du of the officers as it may deem advisable. The first officers are

NAME	OFFICE
1. Percy Lee Bradford	President
2. Earnest Thomas	Vice-President
3. Charlie White	Secretary
4. Cosetta Jackson	Treasurer

ARTICLE X.

The Board of Directors shall have the power to make, am and replace by-laws to govern this corporation provided they are accordance with and do not conflict with these articles.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, said Incorporators have hereunto signed their names at Monroe, Louisiana, in the presence of Barbara L. Sharp and Geraldine Williams, legal and competen witnesses, and me, said Notary Public, on this the 5th day of Mar in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Five

/s/ Barbara L. Sharp

/s/ Geraldine Williams

/s/ James Sharp, Jr.
NOTARY PUBLIC

/s/ Percy Lee Bradford
PERCY LEE BRADFORD

/s/ Earnest Thomas
EARNEST THOMAS

/s/ Cosetta Jackson
COSETTA JACKSON

/s/ Charlie White
CHARLIE WHITE

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 17, 1965

1

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] was interviewed [redacted]

[redacted] stated he did not wish to furnish any information concerning the Deacons of Defense and Justice until he had spoken to some of the other members of the Deacons of Defense and Justice.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	[redacted]
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Height	
Weight	
Eyes	
Hair	
Employment	

b7C
b7D

[redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

8/3/65 at Jonesboro, Louisiana File # NO 157-3290

Special Agent [redacted] and b7C
Special Agent [redacted]/ERP Date dictated 8/3/65

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

Date August 17, 1965

1

B. APPROX. [redacted]

[redacted] furnished the following information:

[redacted] Deacons of Defense and Justice, a corporation which has its headquarters in Jonesboro. He said that the purpose of the organization is to protect the Negroes living in the Negro section of Jonesboro. He stated that his group would only resort to violence if they were attacked by a group such as the Ku Klux Klan. He stated that the group does not have a source of arms, but the individual members of the organization were armed. In addition, he stated that these guns were kept in the individual members homes and were not hidden in a cache somewhere. He advised that there was no actual training given to any of the members in the use of firearms. b7C b7D

He stated that there are about 15 to 20 active members in the Jonesboro chapter, and that the actual membership in Jonesboro amounted to approximately 50 to 75 persons. He stated that only two other chapters of the Deacons have been organized in Louisiana, and they are located at Bogalusa and Homer. To his knowledge, no other chapters of the Deacons have been formed anywhere in the United States. He stated that he did not know the number of members or the names of the officers in either Homer or Bogalusa.

[redacted] stated that the bylaws of the organization have not yet been drawn up and that this was one of the major problems facing the organization. He stated that once the bylaws were drawn up that each new chapter of the Deacons that was formed would be expected to follow the bylaws as proposed by the National Headquarters here in Jonesboro. [redacted] said that at present the group plans for the other chapters is to forward 10 per cent of their dues to the National Organization here in Jonesboro.

CONFIDENTIAL

On 8/3/65 at Jonesboro, Louisiana File # NO 157-3290

By Special Agent [redacted] and Special Agent [redacted] /mrp b7C Date dictated 8/4/65

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

[redacted] stated that the officers of the Deacons were as follows:

President	PERCY LEE BRADFORD
Vice-President	ERNEST THOMAS [redacted]
Secretary	CHARLEY WHITE
Treasurer	COSSETTA JACKSON

MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

He said that election of new officers would be held in the near future. [redacted]

He said that ERNEST THOMAS is presently in California and that the Deacons are not paying for the expenses involved in the trip. [redacted] said that the Deacons did pay for the plane fare of THOMAS on one occasion when he went to New York. He stated that the statements being made to the press by THOMAS have not been approved by the membership. He did state that some of the talk concerning the weapons and number of members in the Deacons has been exaggerated in order to deceive the Ku Klux Klan, and the local Sheriff's Office.

b7C
b7D

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	[redacted]
Address	
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Height	[redacted]
Weight	

NO (157-3290)
VJH:mrp

CONFIDENTIAL

3

Eyes
Hair
Age
Place of Birth
[redacted]
Occupation

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

CONFIDENTIAL

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 17, 1965

1

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] was contacted and he furnished the following information: [redacted]

[redacted] advised he is a member of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Jonesboro Chapter, [redacted] He advised that during the summer of 1964 several CORE workers come to Jonesboro to aid the Negroes. The white people in the community became alarmed at their presence in Jonesboro and shortly afterwards an auto caravan containing Ku Klux Klan members drove through the Negro quarters of Jonesboro throwing out Ku Klux Klan literature and telling the residents to get rid of the CORE workers. [redacted] advised the Negroes became so alarmed at this incident they decided that since local law enforcement was not protecting them they would get together and form a group to defend their homes and property in the event the Ku Klux Klan returned. As a result, a large number of Negroes went to their homes and returned with firearms. They returned to the CORE headquarters area in Jonesboro to await the return of the Ku Klux Klan. The latter did not return. [redacted] advised this was the start of the idea to form the Deacons.

b7
b7

[redacted] In an effort to come up with a name that would indicate their organization was for the good of all people they decided on the name Deacons of Defense and Justice. The name Deacons denotes something religious as the name was taken from the Deacon of the church. The word Defense would indicate they were not an offensive group, but would protect and defend themselves when necessary.

[redacted] He stated that at the present time PERCY LEE BRADFORD is the president, and

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On 8/6/65 at Grambling, Louisiana File # NO 157-3290

Special Agent [redacted] and
Special Agent [redacted] /mrp b7C

by Date dictated 8/8/65

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MMM:mrp

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CHARLEY WHITE is the Financial Secretary. ERNEST THOMAS is the acting Vice-President and Fieldman. At the present time THOMAS is in San Francisco. His job as Fieldman is to raise funds and attempt to organize new Chapters. [redacted] advised THOMAS is expected to return to Jonesboro sometime around the middle of August, 1965.

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[redacted] advised the Deacons have monthly dues of $2.00 for each member. The Jonesboro Chapter also has an initiation fee of $10.00 per member. He stated that when a new Chapter is organized the original Chapter fee is $100.00, and this is sent to Jonesboro. Each Chapter itself can designate its own initiation fee and the Chapter keeps this money. Thereafter each Chapter must send 10 per cent of the dues collected each month to the headquarters in Jonesboro. [redacted] stated he does not know how many Chapters or members there are at the present time. He advised [redacted] would have this information. He also stated that ERNEST THOMAS has not made any reports [redacted] on his trip so he does not believe the information concerning all the Chapters and members will be known until THOMAS returns.

[redacted]

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NO (157-3290)
MMM:mrp

3

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] advised he has read some of the remarks made in the newspapers by ERNEST THOMAS. He advised the organization does not furnish weapons to its members as most of them have personally owned weapons. He does not know of any source of weapons or cache which the Deacons might have. He personally feels that if THOMAS made this remark it is possible he, THOMAS has developed a source for obtaining weapons in his travels.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] related that not all the men in the leadership of the Deacons agree with THOMAS and his way of thinking. At the present time none of the Deacons in Jonesboro, to his knowledge, know exactly what he is doing or has accomplished in his travels, and they will probably not know until he returns.

[redacted] stated that the Deacons is open to anyone over the age of 21 who satisfactorily passes a background check. This investigation is usually conducted by [redacted] or another member of the Jonesboro Chapter. The main reason for this check is to keep undesirable people out of the organization such as those with criminal characteristics or those who have very poor credit records in the community. He also stated the Deacons prefer married men and they prefer all members to be registered voters.

It was tactfully pointed out to [redacted] the dangers inherent in illegal arming and illegal acts which might result from encouragement of members to arm and carry firearms.

CONFIDENTIAL

NO (157-3290)
MMM:mrp

1

CONFIDENTIAL

The following description was obtained during interview and from observation:

Name	[redacted]	
Residence		
Race	Negro	
Sex	Male	b7C
Height		b7D
Weight	[redacted]	
Date of Birth		
Place of Birth		
Occupation		

[redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

FD-302 (Rev. 3-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 8/17/65

[redacted] CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

[redacted] advised that he is a member of the Deacons of Defense and Justice. He stated that this organization first started as a club about the last part of Spring, 1964. He stated that this club did not have a name but consisted of Negro males residing in the "Quarters" section of Jonesboro, Louisiana. [redacted] recalled that sometime in July or August, 1964, about 9:00 P.M. a caravan of about 35 cars containing from three to five members of the Ku Klux Klan, dressed in full Klan regalia, and lead by a Jackson Parish Sheriff's car, drove through the "Quarters." He stated that because of this incident, coupled with the fact that the caravan was lead by a Sheriff's Office venicle, it was decided that the Deacons of Defense and Justice should be formed in order to protect the lives and property of those who lived in the "Quarters." He stated that the purpose of the Deacons of Defense and Justice is to protect the rights of all citizens, "black and white." He explained that the purpose of this organization was not to take the law into their own hands but the purpose was for civic improvement through negotiation and the protection of the rights of individuals through court action and legal means.

b7C
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Concerning weapons owned by members of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, [redacted] advised that the newspaper article appearing in the New York Times and in the Newsweek magazine were not true or accurate. He related that the Deacons have no machine guns or other simular automatic weapons. He stated that the only weapons owned by Deacons were "house protection" weapons. He related that "house protection" weapons were ordinary rifles and pistols

On 8/3/65 at Jonesboro, Louisiana File # 157-3290

by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted]/mln b7C CONFIDENTIAL Date dictated 8/3/65

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that one keeps to protect his home. [redacted]

Concerning the membership of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, [redacted] related that PERCY L. BRADFORD was President, ERNEST THOMAS, Vice-President, CHARLIE WHITE, Secretary, and COSSEHA JACKSON, Treasurer. He stated that at the present time the Jonesboro Chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice consists of about 25 active members. He related that there are numerous other members who do not take an active part in the meetings or other activities of the organization. [redacted] stated that to his knowledge the only other chapter of the Deacons was located in Bogalusa, Louisiana.

B. APPROX. [redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted] He stated that the initiation fee is $10.00 and the dues are $2.00 per month. [redacted]

[redacted] advised that meetings of the Deacons of Defense and Justice are normally held every Tuesday night at the Masonic Lodge located on Leon Street, Quarters Section, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

At this time [redacted] furnished the following description of himself:

Name:	[redacted]
Sex:	Male
Race:	Negro

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NO (157-3290)/mln
3

CONFIDENTIAL

Date of Birth:
Hair:
Eyes:
Height:
Weight:
Social Security No.:

[redacted]

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 8/17/65

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[redacted]

[redacted] stated that he is not a member of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, but he has attended some of their meetings to see what their aims are and the direction they are headed. He stated that if he likes the aims of the organization he may join it.

[redacted] stated that from his observations of the Deacons for Defense and Justice he feels they want to work with the law, and want to assist anyone being treated unjustly in a legal manner. [redacted] stated that he felt that the national publicity concerning this organization is so much propaganda put out to fool the Klan. He advised that he knows nothing about any guns or firearms in the possession of the Deacons of Defense and Justice.

b7C
b7D

The following description was obtained by observation and interview:

Name:	[redacted]
Race:	Negro
Sex:	Male
Height:	[redacted]
Weight:	
Build:	
Hair:	
Complexion:	
Eyes:	
Scars & Marks:	

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On 8/4/65 at Jonesboro, Louisiana File # NO 157-3290

SA [redacted] AND b7C
by SA [redacted] /mln Date dictated 8/4/65

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NO (157-3290)/mln
2

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[redacted] b7C b7D

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1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/17/65

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

[redacted] furnished the following information: [redacted]

[redacted] advised he is presently a member of the Deacons of Defense and Justice [redacted] He stated that the Deacons was founded to give the Negroes protection in the community. This group has as its objective "Justice for all men no matter what their color." [redacted] Negro areas to see that no churches or homes were bombed or burned. [redacted] patrolled these areas all last winter and that this was stopped a few months ago.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] stated the dues are $2.00 per month but he refused to divulge the amount of the initiation fee. The Deacons do not furnish weapons to its members although most members own their own guns and usually keep them in their car or at home. [redacted] He stated the Deacons do not have a source of weapons nor do they have any cache hidden anywhere to his knowledge.

[redacted] was reminded of the dangers of this group arming illegally and committing illegal acts.

[redacted] advised he does not know how many members are in the Deacons. The most men he observed at any meeting was between 50 and 75 and this was approximately three or four months ago. He advised PERCY LEE BRADFORD is the President,

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On 8/4/65 at Jonesboro, Louisiana File # NO 157-3290

SA [redacted] b7C
SA [redacted] mln
By Date dictated 8/6/65

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HENRY AMOS is the Vice-President and ELMO JACOBS is a member of the Board of Directors.

[redacted] stated that to his knowledge the Deacons of Defense and Justice is a defensive organization. As such they will defend themselves or their fellow members to any degree necessary. The Deacons do not go out looking for trouble, but will not run from it if and when it comes.

b7C
b7D

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:	[redacted]
Date of birth:	
Place of birth:	
Sex:	Male
Race:	Negro
Height:	[redacted]
Weight:	
Eyes:	
Hair:	
Social Security:	

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

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Date 8/17/65

furnished the following information:

advised he is presently a member of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) and has been a member since the organization was formed.

He advised the prime objective of the Deacons is to see that everyone, no matter what their color, gets Justice. They make inquiries when they are advised of arrests of their members and they arrange for attorneys and attempt to see that the people get a fair trial.

b7C
b7D

advised the Deacons do not furnish weapons to their members, but that the majority of the members own their own weapons. He advised he knows of no source of weapons available to the Deacons. advised the organization as such is a defensive type group and they do not go looking for trouble, but he stated if trouble comes to them they will protect themselves to any degree necessary.

further stated the organization has no set dues and he knows of no fee which must be paid to get into the organization. He believes there are 18 to 25 active members in the Jonesboro Chapter. The Deacons also have chapters in Bogalusa and Homer, Louisiana.

The dangers of members illegally arming themselves and committing illegal acts was brought to attention.

The following description was obtained during

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On 8/5/65 at Jonesboro, Louisiana File # NO 157-3290

by SA and SA /mln b7C Date dictated 8/8/65

- 30 -

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interview and from observation:

Name: [redacted]
Race: Negro
Sex: Male
Height: [redacted]
Weight:
Eyes:
Hair:
Date of birth:
Place of birth:
Employment:

b7c
b7

[redacted] stated that [redacted] would be able to furnish information concerning the membership [redacted]

FD-529 (10-20-78)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

3 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☑ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

CONFIDENTIAL

CHAPTER — JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA IS IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE HEADQUARTER

OF

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

IS A MEMBER OF D. D. J. COOPERATION

Chapter

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS — JONESBORO, LOUISIANA — Drawer B

President

Secretary

19. . .	Local Dues	G. C. Dues	When Paid	Sec'y
JAN.				
FEB.				
MARCH				
APRIL				
MAY				
JUNE				
JULY				
AUGUST				
SEPT.				
OCTOBER				
NOV.				
DEC.				

19. . .	Local Dues	G. C. Dues	When Paid	Sec'y
JAN				
FEB				
MARCH				
APRIL				
MAY				
JUNE				
JULY				
AUGUST				
SEPT.				
OCTOBER				
NOV.				
DEC.				

There is being set forth a reproduction of the official identification papers which is carried by members of the Deacons of Defense and Justice as furnished by [redacted].

b7C
b7D

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

CONFIDENTIAL Date 8/5/65

[redacted] was advised of the identity and official capacity of interviewing Agents.

[redacted] stated the Deacons for Defense and Justice is an incorporated organization and has received a charter from the State of Louisiana. He said National Offices for the Deacons for Defense and Justice are located at Jonesboro, Louisiana. He stated (first name unknown) BRADFORD is the National President and HENRY AMOS is the National Vice President. Both BRADFORD and AMOS live in Jonesboro, Louisiana.

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted] stated the Deacons for Defense and Justice have a rule against divulging any information relating to the strength of membership, the activities of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, and the ownership of arms kept by the members of this organization. He said he, therefore, could not furnish any further information regarding the Deacons for Defense and Justice and any other information concerning this organization would have to be obtained from the National Offices in Jonesboro, Louisiana. He added that for members to give any other information would be "like cutting off your nose to spite your face.

CONFIDENTIAL

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On 8/5/65 at Bogalusa, Louisiana File # NO 157-3290

b7C

by SAs [redacted] & [redacted] Date dictated 8/5/65

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 CONFIDENTIAL Date 8/5/65

[redacted] was advised of the identity and official capacity of interviewing Agents.

At the outset of the interview [redacted] was advised that we wished to talk to him about the organization, Deacons for Defense and Justice. [redacted] said he would give no information at all regarding the organization, Deacons for Defense and Justice, nor would he admit being an officer or member of this organization. He said any information obtained concerning the organization would have to be given in the presence of the entire assembly of the Deacons for Defense and Justice. b7C b7D

[redacted] reiterated that he would provide no information at all regarding this organization, its officers, members, activities, purpose or method of operation.

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On 8/5/65 at Bogalusa, Louisiana File # NO 157-3290

by SAs [redacted] & [redacted] :jj b7C Date dictated 8/5/65

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

CONFIDENTIAL

Date 8/4/65

[redacted] telephonically advised SA [redacted] that the Deacons for Defense and Justice originated in Jonesboro, Louisiana, with seven original members. He said ERNEST JOHNSON is the Regional Head for the Deacons for Defense and Justice. He stated that the Bogalusa Chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice was chartered through the parent chapter at Jonesboro and that part of the dues collected from the members of the Bogalusa Chapter is supposed to go to the Jonesboro Chapter.

[redacted] advised that CHARLES SIMS is financial secretary for the BVL and is also head of the Bogalusa Chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice. [redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] further advised that ERNEST JOHNSON is presently in Northern California attempting to raise money for the Jonesboro area and that SIMS has stated he wishes to go back to Southern California and attempt to raise more money in that area.

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On 8/4/65 at Bogalusa, Louisiana File # NO 157-3290

by SA [redacted] b7C Date dictated 8/4/65

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NO 157-3290
MAK:mnw
1

[redacted] that ALBERT DAVIS, [redacted] (c) Bogalusa, Louisiana, is the Treasurer and acting Secretary for the Deacons of Defense and Justice; and that [redacted] Bogalusa," and [redacted] Bogalusa," are members of the Bogalusa Chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice. [redacted] the Deacons of Defense and Justice are (c) presently trying to find a place and date for fire-arms practice as in the past this training has been on an individual basis. He further reported that the present cost of joining the Deacons of Defense and Justice is $10. and there is a $2. monthly dues assessment.

b1
b7C
b7D

The organization outlawed automatic rifles but automatic pistols are allowed. According to the informant, the organization has obtained M-1's (not specified as whether rifles or carbines) along with 30.0 rifles.

[redacted] furnished the following information concerning Bogalusa Deacons of Defense and Justice:

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NO 157-3290
MAK/mnw
1

The following is a partial list of members of the Bogalusa Deacons for Defense and Justice (DDJ):

CHARLES SIMS, President
ROYAN BURRIS, Vice-President

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted]

It is believed that Bogalusa DDJ does not possess any machine guns, M-14 rifles, or grenades. [redacted] purchased military surplus arms [redacted] These purchases are believed to be 30.06 rifles and side arms. The only other equipment presently known to be possessed by the Bogalusa DDJ are walkie talkies.

The Bogalusa DDJ is presently maintaining a curfew of one-half hour after Negro rallies in the Negro community of Bogalusa. Any Negro on the streets after the curfew is ordered to go to their homes immediately. The recognition signal when approaching DDJ members at night in a vehicle is to turn the vehicle's headlights off and on once.

CONFIDENTIAL

NO 157-3290
MAK/mnw
2

Some of the expenses of the Bogalusa DDJ are reimbursed by the Bogalusa Voters League (BVL) and for this reason CHARLES SIMS was made financial secretary for the BVL. [redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] ERNEST JOHNSON, also known as Chilly, president of the Jonesboro DDJ, is presently in Northern California attempting to raise money for the Jonesboro DDJ and is staying at [redacted] residence.

Negroes in Plaquemine, Louisiana, recently asked for help in forming a Plaquemine Chapter of the DDJ and on August 1, 1965, CHARLES SIMS and ROYAN BURRIS went to Plaquemine in order to help in this endeavor.

Monroe, Louisiana, and Ferriday, Louisiana, have also requested assistance in forming DDJ chapters.

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MAK:mnw
1

On June 10, 1965, [redacted] Negro male [redacted] indicated that a Chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice had been formed in Homer, Louisiana. [redacted] indicated that the organization, exclusively composed of local Negro males, had originally been formed by Negroes in Bogalusa and Jonesboro, Louisiana, as a self-protection group. [redacted] continued to explain that the organization was active in areas where Civil Rights activity had either actually or was presumed to potentially precipitate violence against Negroes by local white segregationists.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] said that the specific purpose of the group was to arm themselves and to "meet force with force" in such instances as local white men employed force or "terror tactics" against Negroes. [redacted] was emphatic in stressing that the organization intended no aggressive or violent action against any individual or group, and that no member of the organization would employ any type of force unless such action was initiated against him first.

[redacted] furnished a list of Negro male individuals who are currently members of the Homer, Louisiana Chapter of the organization and the positions they occupy as follows:

George Dodd	Homer, Louisiana	President
Fred Lewis	[redacted]	Vice Presiden
[redacted]	[redacted]	Secretary
		Financial Secretary
[redacted]	[redacted]	Treasurer
		Member
		Member
		Member
		Member
		Member
		Member
		Member

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NO 157-3290
MAK:mnw
1

[redacted] the following persons have now become members:

1) [redacted]

2) [redacted]

3) [redacted]

4) [redacted]

5) [redacted]

6) [redacted]

7) [redacted]

8) [redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted] He stated the organization has not purchased any weapons of any type and there are no plans in the immediate future to purchase weapons. He said the organization does not own any weapons of any kind, although individual members do own various types of hunting shotguns and rifles.

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] advised the organization has not been active although several of the members have been meeting each Tuesday night at the Masonic Hall in Homer. He said there are usually 10 or 12 members in attendance. He said the group is waiting for someone from the Jonesboro, Louisiana, Chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice to come to Homer to advise them as to what activity they are to undertake. He advised that until someone from Jonesboro explains how the organization works, there will be no activity of the Homer, Louisiana, chapter.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] furnished the following information on August 3, 1965:

He is familiar with the Negroes who make up the Homer, Louisiana, Chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice. All of the members are long time residents of that parish and none of them have a record for violence. He has no information the organization is gathering firearms. He has not seen any activity from the organization until this time.

CONFIDENTIAL

NO 157-3290
MAK:mnw
1

The Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, dated June 13, 1965, carried a story concerning the Deacons for Defense and Justice in which the writer stated that the Deacons claimed that they had machine guns and hand grenades for use in racial warfare. ERNEST THOMAS, 32, of Jonesboro, who was described as an official and full-time organizer for the Deacons, according to this article, told newsmen that there were 50 to 55 chapters of the Deacons in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, and fund-raising units were being established in San Francisco, New York, and other large cities.

This article further stated that at interviews with members of the Deacons, indications were made that this group was armed with pistols and rifles, and THOMAS stated, "We have contacts in Chicago and Houston for automatic weapons--for .50 caliber and .30 caliber." THOMAS additionally stated that they had machine guns and hand grenades for use in racial strife.

Investigations conducted at Chicago and Houston have not developed any information that would indicate that any large quantity of weapons has been sold to any individuals or group in the Jonesboro, Bogalusa, or New Orleans area of Louisiana.

CONFIDENTIAL

NO 157-3290
MAK:mnw
1

[redacted] (c) b1

[redacted] (c) b1

It is to be noted that the Fox and Wolf Hunt Club is affiliated with the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM). A characterization of RAM is contained in the appendix section of this report.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

APPENDIX

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM)

On November 3, 1964, a source made available a document entitled, "The Revolutionary Action Movement Manifesto", the document having been obtained by the source from an individual known to be a member of RAM.

This document stated, in part, that RAM was officially organized in the Winter of 1963, by Afro-Americans who support the revolutionary objectives of ROBERT F. WILLIAMS, now residing in Cuba, and his concept of organized violence to achieve the liberation of the Afro-American people in the United States. This Manifesto reflected that RAM had oriented its program to one of education and political revolution and the organization of a "black" political party with revolutionary objectives, having recognized the need for a "black revolution" that could and would seize power. RAM philosophy is described in this document as one of revolutionary nationalism, that is, one involving the struggles of the non-white races of the world against exploitation and enslavement by the white capitalist and imperialist nations.

Regarding WILLIAMS, above, it should be noted that on August 28, 1961, a Federal warrant was issued at Charlotte, North Carolina, charging him with Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution for the Crime of Kidnapping. Subsequent to the issuance of this warrant, WILLIAMS fled the United States to Cuba, where he now publishes a monthly newsletter entitled "The Crusader" from Havana.

On November 16, 1965, a second source advised that he learned recently from a RAM member that the organization was begun in Detroit, Michigan, largely under the impetus of DON FREEMAN, Cleveland, Ohio, described as the "Father" of RAM and referred to as RAM's "Black Stalin". FREEMAN now serves as RAM Chairman, with MAXWELL STANFORD, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, serving RAM as Field Chairman. This second source advised that there is no formal headquarters, as such, for RAM at present, but that headquarters are, in effect, with FREEMAN since he plays a dominant role in the leadership and directs the policies and activities of the organization.

CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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To date, according to the second source, in November, 1964, RAM has organized units and membership in several of the larger cities in the United States east of the Mississippi River, and the organization is currently active, attempting to recruit new members and expand its sphere of influence.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CONFIDENTIAL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

AUG 19 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI SANANTON

615 PM CST 8/19/65 URGENT LAL

TO DIRECTOR (157-2466)

FROM SAN ANTONIO (157-413)

THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS - RM

RE SAN ANTONIO AIRTEL AUGUST NINE LAST.

[redacted] UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, AUSTIN, TEXAS, ADVISED INSTANT DATE THAT UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUAL PLACED A LARGE NUMBER OF PLACARDS AT VARIOUS POINTS ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, WHICH PLACARDS READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS PRESENTS: MARK KLEIN SPEAKING ON ARMED SELF DEFENSE, THE NEXT STAGE IN THE NEGRO STRUGGLE. UNIVERSITY YMCA, THURSDAY, AUGUST NINETEEN, EIGHT P.M., ADMISSION FREE. UNQUOTE

[redacted] AUSTIN AWARE OF MEETING. MATTER BEING FOLLOWED AND BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED. LHM FOLLOWS. 157-2466-42

END

WA JRL

FBI WASH DC

TU CLR P

1 Yellow TT sent to No by 0-7 8/20/65 JLM:cd.

REC-76 18 AUG 23 1965

EX 105

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gal/k

3 AUG 30 1965

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
AUG 20 1965
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI SANANTON

[redacted] PM 8/19/65 URGENT JEH

TO DIRECTOR /157-2466/

FROM SAN ANTONIO /157-413/

THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS. RACIAL MATTER.

[redacted]

RE SAN ANTONIO TEL TODAY.

MEETING HELD AS SCHEDULED, NO INCIDENTS, NO ARRESTS, LHM FOLLOWS.

END AND ACK PLS.

[redacted] JXM

FBI WASH DC

CLRP

REC-76 157-2466-43

EX-100

18 AUG 23 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gal/jk

51 AUG 1965

F B

Date: Aug. 20, 1965

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-413)

RE: THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS
RM

Re San Antonio teletype dated 8/19/65.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are eight copies of LHM on captioned matter suitable for dissemination.

Copies of the LHM have been disseminated locally to OSI, ONI, 112th INTC and two copies to Secret Service.

The Special Agent at Austin, Texas, who received the information from [redacted], as set out in attached LHM, is [redacted]

b7C
b7D

EX-100

157-2466-44

REC- 52

LEADS

SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

At Austin, Texas

Will follow and report the results of the meeting scheduled at the University YMCA, August 19, 1965.

AUG 24 1965

ENCLOSURE

E. C. Wick

2 Bureau (Enc. 8)
6 San Antonio
JJC:JMW
(9)

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI; SEC. SERV.
DEPT: ISD, CRD, [redacted]
DATE FORW: 8/20/65
HOW FORW: RIS
BY: JJC:JMW

1cc & cc LHM
1cc & cc LHMB
808 RB

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

55 AUG 31 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
San Antonio, Texas
August 20, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS

On August 19, 1965, [redacted] University of Texas, Austin, Texas, advised a Special Agent of the FBI at Austin, Texas, that an unidentified individual had placed a large number of placards at various points on the university campus some time around 3:00 P. M., August 19, 1965. [redacted] stated the placards were removed upon being discovered.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] stated the placards are described as 14" x 24" and read as follows:

"The Committee to aid the Deacons present: MARK KLEIN speaking on armed self-defense, the next stage in the Negro struggle, University YMCA, Thursday, August 19, 8:00 P.M., admission free."

On August 8, 1965, KLEIN described "The Deacons" as an armed Negro self-defense group."

[redacted] stated that [redacted], as well as the [redacted] have been informed regarding these placards and the proposed meeting scheduled at the University YMCA, August 19, 1965, at 8:00 P. M.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI, it is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

ENCLOSURE

FBI

Date: 8/21/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via Airtel Airmail
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : Director, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, Albany (157-163) RUC

RE : DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 jal/jk

OO: New Orleans

Re San Antonio airtel to Bureau 8/9/65.

Following information made available on 8/19/65, by [redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted]

cc: 3 - Bureau (RM)
3 - San Antonio (Encl.1) (RM)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (RM)
4 - Albany
(1 - 157-163)
(1 - 105-6131)
(1 - 100-19350)
(1 - 100-19317)

REC 31 157-2466

EX-100

C. C. Wick

CWR/bsp
(12)

4 AUG 23 1965

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

SURV. CONTROL

51 AUG 30 1965

FD-529 (10-20-78)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☑ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) DATE: 8/23/65

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (157-1017)(RUC)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka
RM
(OO: New Orleans)

Reference is made to Bureau airtel, 7/19/65.

Investigation has been conducted in the Mobile Division consisting of contact with racial informants and sources, Negro liaison sources, logical criminal informants and appropriate law enforcement officials. No information has been developed which would indicate the existence of any chapter of subject organization in this Division.

Inasmuch as all of the contacts made are negative, no report is being submitted but the negative contacts are reflected in the Mobile file.

Mobile Agents have all been alerted to the possible formation of subject group in this Division and if any such information is received, it will be promptly brought to the attention of the Bureau and New Orleans.

2 - Bureau (RM)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290)(RM)
1 - Mobile
JTB:gre
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gal/jr

REC 27 157-2466-46

15 AUG 25 1965

EX-101

INDEXED

0 AUG 31 1965

FBI

Date: 8/14/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-5290)

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum captioned "[redacted], JONESBORO, LOUISIANA." Copies of this LHM being furnished to Chicago, Detroit, and New York for information.

Copies of this LHM are being disseminated to ICG and Secret Service, New Orleans.

O-17 to NO
Copy to
Date 8/23/65
By JLM:cj
Remarks: Omission of "Prop. of FBI" Statement on LHM.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-17-8 BY SP1 [illegible]

(3 - Bureau (Encls. 8)
1 - Chicago (157-397) (Encl. 1) (Info)
1 - Detroit (157-835) (Encl. 1) (Info)
1 - New York (157-927) (Encl. 1) (Info)
2 - New Orleans
RDW:sab
(8)

157-2466-47

REC-32

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.,
DEPT: ISD, CRD,
DATE FORW: 8/23/65
HOW FORW: RS
BY: JLM:cj

EX-101

AUG 21 1965

~~1cc & cc~~ LHM
808 RB

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

70 SEP 2 1965

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

CONFIDENTIAL

New Orleans, Louisiana
August 14, 1965

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

b7C

[redacted]

JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

The following information has been obtained from the files of the New Orleans Office in connection with various civil rights and racial investigations which have been conducted:

[redacted]

b7

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 Sal/ft 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4, 2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-14-85

152-1966-47

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

On January 5, 1965, the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) was reported to be organized and Earnest Thomas was reported to serve this organization as a group leader.

[redacted]

On February 21, 1965, Earnest Thomas appeared at a meeting of Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) workers and Negro leaders at Bogalusa, Louisiana, to discuss organization of the DDJ at Bogalusa.

On March 5, 1965, a charter was granted to the DDJ at Monroe, Louisiana, reflecting Earnest Thomas as vice president of this organization, registered agent, and member of the board of directors.

[redacted]

On March 20, 1965, [redacted] advised his office had been aware of the DDJ organization at Jonesboro for the past six months. [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

b7

[redacted] claimed the DDJ was never made to be anything other than defensive to prevent Klan groups and others from invading the Negro section and perpetrating lawless acts on the Negroes. He said their weapons were of the type most commonly used in homes in the area.

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

On July 2, 1965, according to one newspaper States-Item of New Orleans, Louisiana, on that date, Earnest Thomas was a speaker at the annual convention of CORE at Durham, North Carolina, and that Thomas was one of the speakers along with James Farmer, Kenneth X, a Black Muslim leader from Durham, and Bayard Rustin of New York City who organized the civil rights march on Washington in 1963. It was reported that Thomas in his speech attacked the idea of non-violence. He said the Deacons was created to inform the klan that Negroes on the whole are not non-violent. Thomas was supported in this attitude by another speaker, Dr. Lonnie X, a Black Muslim minister of Washington, D.C., who also spoke, saying "It is better to spend 30 seconds in the glory of manhood than a 1,000 years in the news."

A characterization of the Nation of Islam is attached hereto in the appendix section.

[redacted] b

[redacted] b

[redacted] b

[redacted] (c)

FD-529 (10-20-78)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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☐ For your information: _____

_____

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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FBI/DOJ

APPENDIX

NATION OF ISLAM, formerly referred to as the Muslim Cult of Islam, also known as Muhammad's Temples of Islam

CONFIDENTIAL

NATION OF ISLAM

In January, 1957, a source advised Elijah Muhammad has described his organization on a nationwide basis as the "Nation of Islam" (NOI) and "Muhammad's Temples of Islam".

On May 8, 1964, a second source advised Elijah Muhammad is the national leader of the NOI; Muhammad's Temple of Islam No. 2, 5335 South Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, is the national headquarters of the NOI; and in mid-1960, Muhammad and other NOI officilas, when referring to Muhammad's organization on a nationwide basis, commenced using either "Mosque" or "Temple" when mentioning one of "Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

The NOI is an all-Negro organization which was originally organized in 1930 in Detroit, Michigan. Muhammad claims to have been selected by Allah, the Supreme Being, to lead the so-called Negro race out of salvery in the wilderness of North America by establishing an independent black nation in the United States. Members following Muhammad's teachings and his interpretation of the "Koran" believe there is no such thing as a Negro; that the so-called Negroes are slaves of the white race, referred to as "white devils," in the United States; and that the white race, because of its exploitation of the so-called Negroes, must and will be destroyed in the approaching "War of Armageddon."

In the past, officials and members of the NOI, including Muhammad, have refused to register under the provisions of the Selective Service Acts and have declared that members owe no allegiance to the United States.

APPENDIX

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

On May 5, 1958, the first source advised Muhammad had, upon advice of legal counsel, tempered his personal statements and instructions to his ministers concerning the principles of his organization in order to avoid possible prosecution by the United States Government; however, he did not indicate any fundamental changes in the teachings of his organization.

On May 7, 1964, a third source advised Muhammad had, early in July, 1958, decided to de-emphasize the religious aspects of the teachings of Islam and to stress the economic benefits to be derived by those Negroes who joined the NOI. This policy change, according to Muhammad, would help him acquire additional followers and create more interest in his programs.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

1

APPENDIX

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM)

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This document stated, in part, that RAM was officially organized in the Winter of 1963, by Afro-Americans who support the revolutionary objectives of ROBERT F. WILLIAMS, now residing in Cuba, and his concept of organized violence to achieve the liberation of the Afro-American people in the United States. This Manifesto reflected that RAM had oriented its program to one of education and political revolution and the organization of a "black" political party with revolutionary objectives, having recognized the need for a "black revolution" that could and would seize power. RAM philosophy is described in this document as one of revolutionary nationalism, that is, one involving the struggles of the non-white races of the world against exploitation and enslavement by the white capitalist and imperialist nations.

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

FBI

Date: 8/20/65

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Coach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-413)

RE: THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS
RM 157-2166

Transmitted herewith are eight copies of LHM reflecting results of the meeting held at Austin, Texas, at 8 p.m. on 8/19/65 at the University YMCA, Austin, Texas.

One copy each is being disseminated locally to OSI, ONI, 112th INTC, and two to Secret Service.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gal lfr

3 ENCLOSURE

C. C. Wick

(3) - Bureau
2 - San Antonio
JCK/fes
(5)

Memo AT + ICCLHM sent to NO 8/23/65 by O-7 for info. JLM: CD.

157-2466-48

REC-50

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI; SAC SEN.
DEPT: ISD, CRD
DATE FORW: 8/23/65
HOW FORW: RIS
BY: JLM: CD

EX 105 AUG 26 1965

LHM
CRB

76 SEP 1 1965

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

San Antonio, Texas
August 20, 1965

The Committee to Aid the Deacons

[redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] advised the scheduled meeting of the Committee to Aid the Deacons was begun at 8 p.m. at the University YMCA, Austin, Texas, on August 19, 1965, with approximately thirty people present. This group was predominately white and only one Negro girl who is a student at the University of Texas was present.

PAUL PIPKIN, member of the Students for a Democratic Society, introduced MARK KLEIN as program speaker.

From 8 p.m. to approximately 9 p.m. KLEIN voiced [redacted] Communistic propaganda and read from numerous books their contents all favorable to Communism. KLEIN also advocated that Negroes should all arm themselves and organize into groups who could then protect themselves against the Ku Klux Klan, racists, and law enforcement officers who attack peaceful demonstrations.

KLEIN specfically recommended that each Negro in addition to having the necessary firearms to defend his home, [redacted] should have a loaded rifle and pistol in his car at all times and be ready "to defend the Negroes."

Following KLEIN's address, approximately one hour question and answer period followed. During this time, KLEIN was "hard put" to justify his position that armed deacons for defense and justice would not lead to positive open clashes between whites and Negroes. During this session, KLEIN defined his personal position as a "revolutionary socialist."

The meeting was adjourned just prior to 10 p.m. in order that KLEIN could watch the 10 p.m. TV news and determine if the meeting was on local television.

There were no incidents and no arrests were made.

[redacted] INFORMATION CONTAINED
[redacted] REIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

PROPERTY OF THE FBI
This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

157-2466-48

ENCLOSURE

The Committee to Aid the Deacons

[redacted]

b7(
b7:

[redacted] University of Texas, informed that the Committee to Aid the Deacons was not an approved University of Texas campus organization.

[redacted] University of Texas, Austin, Texas, on November 2, 1964, advised:

Students for a Democratic Society is an approved organization of the University of Texas campus. He described it as "a political study and action organization. The purpose of the organization is to work toward a more democratic society." He described it as "an educational and social action organization that seeks to promote the active participation of students toward construction of a social order that is free from poverty, ignorance, war, exploitations, and inhumanity of man to man."

[redacted] stated membership is open to students, faculty, and others who share the commitments of the organization to democracy as a means and as a social goal.

6 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 8/25/65

Transmit the following in CONFIDENTIAL
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, Jackson (157-3465) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE, aka
RACIAL MATTERS

Re report of SA [redacted] dated 8/17/65 at New Orleans. b7C

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM and for New Orleans are two copies of same. One copy each is being sent to INTC, OSI, ONI, and Secret Service. [redacted] will also be advised of the developments in this matter.

[redacted] (C) b1 b7C b7D

LEADS:

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

ENCLOSURE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gal/ft 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2, 2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-25-85

(3) - Bureau (157-2466) (Enc 8) (RM)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc 2) (RM)
5 - Jackson (157-3465)
[redacted] (C) b1

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

RED 25

LHM (1 - 100-[redacted]) b7C 157-3465-47
(1 - 157-452)

JOI/gjm
(10)

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC SER.
DEPT: ISD, CRD

DATE FORW: 8/30/65
HOW FORW: RUS
BY: [illegible]

8 AUG 27 1965

C.C. Wich
Approved: [illegible]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

CONFIDENTIAL

cc & cc RB

b1

CONFIDENTIAL

At Bogalusa, Louisiana

[redacted] b1 (c)

At Jonesboro, Louisiana

Will handle lead as set forth under Bogalusa.

JACKSON DIVISION

At Jackson, Mississippi

Will maintain contact with sources to obtain background concerning organization of Mississippi chapter. Will attempt to identify all participants and activities as well as arms acquired.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Jackson, Mississippi
August 25, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS

[redacted] b1

[redacted] B. APPROX. [redacted]

[redacted] B. APPROX. [redacted]

[redacted] B. APPROX. [redacted]

[redacted] B. APPROX. [redacted]

[redacted] B. APPROX. [redacted]

[redacted] B. APPROX. [redacted]

[redacted] B. APPROX. [redacted]

[redacted] B. APPROX. [redacted]

[redacted] B. APPROX. [redacted]

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 Schl/fr 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4 2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-25-85

TION CONTAINED
N UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE —

ENCLOSURE CONFIDENTIAL

FD-529 (10-20-78)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☑ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1), (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consulation to the following government agency(ies); _____ _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
AUG 25 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI SANANTON

XXX339PM CST URGENT 8/25/65 MRH

TO DIRECTOR 157-2466

FROM SAN ANTONIO 157 413

THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS. RM.

[redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] ADVISED THE ABOVE COMMITTEE WILL MEET AT EIGHT P.M., AUGUST TWENTY-FIVE AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER, ONE ONE NINE TWO ANGELINA STREET, LOCATED IN THE NEGRO SECTION OF AUSTIN, TEXAS. MARK KLEIN WILL SPEAK ON "THE TRUTH ABOUT THE DEACONS". RESULTS OF THIS MEETING WILL BE FURNISHED THE BUREAU.

END

WA...L BMS

FBI WASH DC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

REC-50 157-[illegible]-50

EX-101

9 AUG 30 1965

51 SEP 2 1965

2 - Bagdoner

DEACONS COUNSEL MISSISSIPPI GROUP

Defense Steps Explained by Negroes From Louisiana

By ROY REED
Special to The New York Times

JACKSON, Miss., Aug. 29—Several members of the Deacons for Defense and Justice came from Louisiana today to tell Mississippi Negroes and civil rights workers how to organize for defense against white terrorism.

The Deacons came in response to a buildup of racial tension in Mississippi. Several acts of violence have occurred during the last week.

The Mississippi Freedom Democratic party, which is militantly pro-civil rights and predominantly Negro, sponsored a forum in Jackson this afternoon for dissemination of information on the Deacons. The Deacons are a loosely organized defense league formed last year in Louisiana to protect Negroes against marauding and harassing whites. Louisiana has several chapters.

The Rev. Ed King, a teacher at predominantly Negro Tougaloo College at Jackson and a member of the executive committee of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic party, said the party was not taking a stand on the Deacons but was simply providing an opportunity for people to learn more about them.

Bogalusa Delegation

Mississippi Negroes are "very interested" in the Deacons at the moment, he said.

Charles Sims, the president of the Deacons at Bogalusa, led a delegation of 10 from that recently embattled town to discuss organized defense at the Jackson meeting.

Mr. Sims walked into the Negro Masonic Hall on Lynch Street with his coat on his arm, in deference to the 99-degree weather, and was greeted warmly by several white and Negro civil rights leaders.

Another delegation of Deacons met with Negroes at Natchez today.

Negroes there have been angry and edgy since a bomb exploded in the car of George Metcalfe, president of the Natchez branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on Friday and injured him seriously.

Young Negroes have gathered on the streets the last two nights and shouted threats at passing white motorists. A few cars, including police cars, have been hit by bricks, bottles and tomatoes.

Negroes blame the Ku Klux Klan for most of the violence at Natchez and elsewhere in Mississippi.

Evers Vs. Klan

Charles Evers of Jackson, state secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. who hurried to Natchez and helped prevent an antiwhite outbreak after the bombing, said today:

"I want to say this to the Ku Klux Klan: Stay out of the Negro section at night. We're going to protect ourselves."

He had warned earlier that Negroes were armed heavily at Natchez and were ready to start using guns to stop harassment and terrorism.

A member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee said at Jackson that Deacons were meeting today with Negroes in at least two other Mississippi towns, Greenville, 150 miles up the Mississippi River from Natchez, and Columbia, in the south-central part of the state.

The week of violence and tension began last Sunday night when the Rev. Donald Thompson, a white Unitarian minister who has been active in civil rights work, was gunned down and seriously wounded by a shotgun attack outside his apartment house.

Mr. Thompson was shot two days after a shotgun attack in Lowndes County, Ala., killed a white Episcopal seminarian and critically wounded a white Roman Catholic priest.

A group of religious leaders at Jackson took a full page advertisement in the Sunday newspaper here today and denounced the attack on Mr. Thompson.

A member of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic party reported last night that three crosses were burned earlier in the evening at Philadelphia, Miss. He said gunfire had been reported near a house where civil rights workers were staying.

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele Room
Holmes
Gandy

Rosen
Tamm
Mohr

The Washington Post and Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times 18 C
The Baltimore Sun
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World
Date 8-30-65

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gaff

157-2466-A

NOT RECORDED
167 SEP 2 1965

57 SEP 2 1965

FD-36 (Rev. [illegible])

FBI

Date: 8/27/65

Transmit the following in CONFIDENTIAL
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-3465) (P)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.,
aka
RACIAL MATTERS

ReJNairtel 8/25/65.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY SUPPLEMENTAL SLIP (S) OF 8/31/65 DATE

[redacted] b1 b7C b7D

[redacted] SIMS allegedly president and BURRIS, vice-president of chapter at Bogalusa.

[redacted]

(3-Bureau (RM)
2-New Orleans (157-3290) (RM)
3-Jackson
[redacted] b1
(I- 157-452)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gbl/ff 7-17-85
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-20 4. 8 2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-27-85

JOI:ish
(8)

157-2466-51

REC- 50

EX 105

AUG 30 1965

Approved: Sent M Per
Special Agent in Charge

51 SEP 2 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

JN 157-3465

CONFIDENTIAL

LEAD

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA, AND JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

[redacted] b1

(C)

CONFIDENTIAL

8/27/65

CONFIDENTIAL

Airtel

1 - Mr. Donohue
1 - Mr. Bates

To: SAC, New York [redacted]

From: Director, FBI [redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES
SLIP (S) ON 1055 4
DATE 3/21/80

ReNYtel to the Bureau 8/26/65 and Bureau telephone call to New York 8/27/65. (U)

[redacted] (C)

1 - 157-2466 (Deacons of Defense and Justice)
1 - 100-442684 (Revolutionary Action Movement)
1 - 157-3022 (Organization for Black Power)
1 - M. F. Row (Room 6221 IB)

NOTE:

[redacted] (C)

RFB:deh
(9)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gh/fr 7-17
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-27-85

DUPLICATE YELLOW

157-2466-
NOT RECORDED
128 AUG 31 1965

ORIGINAL FILED IN

CONFIDENTIAL

3 SEP 7 1965

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
5010-107

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) DATE: 8/27/65

FROM : SAC, CHARLOTTE (157-882) (RUC)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS
(OO: NEW ORLEANS)

Re Bureau airtel, 7/19/65. (U)

Informants and sources of the Charlotte Office contacted concerning captioned organization have advised they have no information relative to the Deacons of Defense and Justice or indicating that any chapters of this organization have been or are being formed.

The Bureau and New Orleans will be promptly advised upon receipt of any pertinent information concerning captioned organization.

2 - Bureau (RM)
2 - New Orleans (RM)
1 - Charlotte
CFW:jms
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/12/80 BY SP1 gal/ff

EX-107

REC-65 157-2466-53

AUG 31 1965

SEC.

57 SEP 7 1965

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 8/26/65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-413)

RE: THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are eight copies of LHM on captioned matter suitable for dissemination. Copies of the LHM have been disseminated locally to OSI, ONI, 112th INCC, and two copies to Secret Service.

The Special Agent who received the information from [redacted] as set out in attached LHM is [redacted]

b7C
b7D

1 - New Orleans

Copy to New Orleans
by routing slip for
☑ info ☐ action
date 8/30/65
by JLM:cd

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC ARMY
DEPT: ISD, CID, [redacted]
DATE FORW: 8/30/65
HOW FORW: RS
BY: JLM:cd

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gal/fv

O-17 to ALD.
Copy to
Date 8/30/65
By JLM:cd.
Remarks: Title incorrectly carried. Character omitted. 2 copies not furnished to New Orleans-00. Ref. omitted.

157-2466-5

REC 4

14 AUG 30 1965

3 - Bureau
1 - San Antonio
JCK/fes
(4)

C. C. Wick

50 SEP 8 1965

Approved _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

San Antonio, Texas
August 26, 1965

RE: THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS

On August 25, 1965, [redacted] advised a Special Agent of the FBI at Austin, Texas, that a meeting would be held by the Committee to Aid the Deacons beginning at 8 p.m. on August 25, 1965.

This meeting is to be held at the Community Center located 1192 Angelina Street, which is located in the Negro section of East Austin, Texas.

The listed speaker for this meeting is MARK KLEIN and his topic will be "The Truth About the Deacons".

On August 8, 1965, KLEIN described the "Deacons" as an armed Negro self defense group.

On August 26, 1965, [redacted] advised a Special Agent of the FBI at Austin, Texas, that the above Committee to Aid the Deacons met at 8 p.m., August 25, 1965, at the Community Center, 1192 Angelina Street, Austin, Texas.

This address is in east Austin and in the Negro section of Austin, Texas.

There were sixteen people in attendance, nine of which were Negro and seven whites.

MARK KLEIN was the speaker at this meeting and his publicized speech as reflected by more than 2,000 circulars distributed throughout Austin, Texas, on August 25, 1965, advertising this meeting was "The Truth About the Deacons".

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gbl/fr

THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS

KLEIN practically repeated the same discussion he had previously given at the University YMCA on the night of August 19, 1965. KLEIN again advocated the Communist party line, read excerpts from various pamphlets and books, all of which were favorable to Communism. KLEIN again urged all Negroes to organize into groups and to arm themselves for their "own protection."

The meeting adjourned shortly before 10 p.m. without incident.

KLEIN noted his disappointment at the small turnout in view of the publicity this meeting had been given.

The August 8, 1965, issue of the San Antonio Light, a daily newspaper in San Antonio, Texas, carried an article stating that MARK KLEIN, a Cornell University student, is responsible for the formation of the Committee to Aid the Deacons, the purpose of which is to aid "the Deacons for defense and justice." KLEIN described the "Deacons" as "an anti Negro self defense group."

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 8/24/65

Transmit the following in CONFIDENTIAL
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL
(Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (157-1063)(C)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gk/pk 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4, 2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-24-85

APPEARANCE OF ROBERT HICKS,
VICE-PRESIDENT, BOGALUSA (LA.)
DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
SPONSORED BY GROUP ON ADVANCED
LEADERSHIP (GOAL), 8/22/65,
DETROIT, MICH.
RACIAL MATTERS

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY: LHM (S) 8/27/80

Remyairtel with LHM dated 8/12/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum. Two copies of the LHM are being furnished the New Orleans Office.

One copy of LHM being furnished G-2 and two copies being furnished U.S. Secret Service, both Detroit, Mich.

[redacted] (C) b1

[redacted] and [redacted] have been apprised of contents of the LHM. b7D

LHM being classified "Confidential" since data furnished by the source utilized could reasonably result in the identification of a confidential informant of continuing value and compromise effectiveness thereof.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 8)
2 - New Orleans (Enc. 2)
3 - Detroit
1 - 157-706 (POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)
[redacted] (C) b1

REC 1 157-2066-54

14 AUG 25 1965

FJP:sal

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI; SEC. SER.
DEPT: ISD, GRD, [redacted]
DATE FORW: 8/25/65
HOW FORW: RIS
BY: [illegible]

Approved: [illegible]
Special Agent in Charge

50 SEP 8 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

Sent _____ M Per _____

UNITE TATES DEPARTMENT OF JUS E

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Detroit, Michigan
August 24, 1965

Re: Appearance of Robert Hicks, Vice-President, Bogalusa (Louisiana) Deacons for Defense and Justice Sponsored by Group on Advanced Leadership (GOAL), August 22, 1965, Detroit, Michigan

On August 23, 1965, a source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that on August 22, 1965, beginning at approximately 3:00 PM, a freedom dinner for the Deacons of Bogalusa, Louisiana, was held at 4472 Chene Street, Detroit, Michigan. Source advised that approximately 300 individuals were present at this affair and admission was by ticket at a cost of $3.00 each.

According to the source, Henry King, who was an official in the GOAL when it was in existence, served as the Master of Ceremonies. He introduced Richard Henry, who was the president of GOAL, and Henry delivered the first speech. Henry talked of GOAL as having been strictly an all Negro organization except for a few Caucasians who happened to be married to Negroes. He said the Negroes struggle for freedom must continue and surmised that there would be other outbreaks of violence like the one which had earlier occurred in Watts, California. Henry said the United States of America is militarily powerful, nevertheless, Negroes will have to fight periodically even though they cannot win against the government's might. He said that violence at times was the only way of letting "Mr. Charlie" know that the black people were tired of being pushed around.

As Henry was speaking, John Conyers, Jr., U.S. Congressman from the First Congressional District, Detroit, entered and Henry commented that he was glad to know Mr. Conyers could come to such a meeting. Henry also acknowledged the presence of Congressman Charles Diggs from the U.S. 13th Congressional District. Henry said he was a strict believer in the "co-op" system but would not fight with other Negroes who were coming together for the cause of the civil rights struggle.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 [illegible]
ON 7-17-80

ENCLOSURE

Re: Appearance of Robert Hicks, Bogalusa Deacons for Defense and Justice Sponsored by GOAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Source advised that other speakers at this affair were Congressmen Conyers and Diggs. According to the source, Mr. Conyers stated he did not believe in violence but felt a man was less than a man if he would not defend himself, his property and his family. He said it was the constitutional right of every American to "take up arms in self-defense" if law enforcement agencies failed to provide said defense. Conyers spoke of police brutality in Detroit and said it had long been an issue with Negroes. He said Negroes must register and vote to defend the bigots who constantly support police brutality and deny the Negroes their basic rights. He said the Watts incident was a war between the "haves and the have nots". He said it was nothing but a class war fought by people who live in ghettos without jobs and decent houses. He stated "Hear me Mr. President, you had better take the money you are spending in Vietnam to fight an uncalled for war and spend it here on the big city slums or else you will have more class wars".

Conyers talked of the registrars presently in the South as being inadequate and he stated he would see the U.S Attorney General on Monday and advise him that they will not settle for anything less than a registrar in every county in the South.

According to the source, Congressman Diggs stated he had heard of the Deacons for Defense and Justice in Louisiana and acknowledged that various situations in the civil rights movement called for new techniques and approaches. Mr. Diggs said he had talked with U.S. Attorney General Katzenbach on Friday and voiced dissatisfaction with the number of voting registrars presently supervising voting registrations in the South. He indicated his pleasure at seeing so many persons present at this dinner.

Among other speakers at this affair, according to the source, were Robert Hicks, President of the Voters League in Bogalusa and a charter member of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, and Charles Sims, another member of the Deacons from Bogalusa.

According to the source, Mr. Hicks related the experiences and background of the civil rights struggle in

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Louisiana. He said the Deacons came into existence because the police of Bogalusa simply refused to protect Negroes and the whites who were trying to help. He said several northern white university students had come to Bogalusa to help them organize. He said the Deacons came about because one night the sheriff had appeared at his home and demanded that they turn over to the Klan the young white students who were in Bogalusa helping them. He said the police were ordered out of the home and when the Klan appeared and fired into the house they, the Deacons, returned the fire and that is how they came into existence. He said the Governor of Louisiana signed the charter legalizing the existence of the Deacons.

Hicks said the Negroes plight in Bogalusa was helped when the Klan refused to let Congressman Brooks Hays of Arkansas appear there. Hicks said that white persons from all over the country wrote letters of disapproval citing the issue of free speech. Consequently, the political leaders of the city declared an all Negro day which permitted the use of all facilities without discrimination. Hicks praised the efforts of Mr. John Doar, Assistant Attorney General in Charge of the Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, and he commented that Mr. Doar had done much to help. Hicks said that their cause was also helped by the presence of 50 FBI agents. Hicks commented that one of the agents was taking pictures and a Klansman attacked him. Hicks said the Klansman was immediately arrested and later tried and sent to a Federal prison and that quieted the Klan for a while. Hicks said he looked forward to the day when whites and Negroes could live in peace together. He said he was disappointed by things in the North because he thought there was a different atmosphere here.

According to the source, Mr. Sims mentioned in his speech much of the same material which had been stated by Robert Hicks. Sims spoke of future harmony among the races and of the day when the whites and the Negroes could live peaceably together. He said the white man respects three things, namely: (1) money; (2) the vote, because he controls everything that way; and (3) power or force. He said white people have never hesitated to go to war when their freedom was in jeopardy.

Re: Appearance of Robert Hicks, Bogalusa Deacons for Defense and Justice Sponsored by GOAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

He said the Deacons intend to fight until they have the "whole hog" as they have "backed up to the river and will either drown or fight".

Source advised that $509.00 was contributed during this affair to the cause of the Deacons in Louisiana. Source said this money was presented to Robert Hicks on the stage at this affair as soon as it had been counted. According to the source, Hicks and Sims stated they had to catch a plane back to Louisiana that same evening.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

536 (Rev. 12-13-56)

FBI

CONFIDENTIAL

Date: 8/28/65

Transmit the following in AIRTEL

(Type in plain text or code)

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-413) (P)

RE: THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS
RM

[redacted] (C)

Copies of this LHM are being disseminated locally to OSI, ONI, INTC, and U. S. Secret Service.

[redacted] (C)

Two copies of LHM are being furnished Houston and San Francisco for information.

1xmy AT + LHM to NO
8/31/65 by o-7
JLM c.d.

(3) - Bureau (Enc.8) (RM)
2 - Houston (Enc.2) (RM)
2 - San Francisco (Enc.2) (RM)
7 - San Antonio
(2 - 157-413) [redacted] (1-66-1620) (1-157-310)
(1 - 157-941 Sub 2) (1-157-414)

JCK/dte
(14)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 Spal for 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4, 2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-28-85

D. D. Wick

AGENCY: ~~ACSI, ONI, OSI~~; SEC. SER.
DEPT: ISD, CRD, ~~RAO~~
DATE FORW: 8-31-65
HOW FORW: Pouch
BY:

1cc & cc LHM
808 RB

REC-31 157-2416-55

EX-101

SEP 2 1965

51 SEP 13 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
San Antonio, Texas

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

August 28, 1965 CONFIDENTIAL

CLASS. & EXT. BY 5P1 gpl/fk 7-17-80

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

THE COMMITTEE TO AID
THE DEACONS

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C) b1

[redacted] E. APPROX. [redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

CLASS. & EXT. BY 5P1 gpl/fk 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 & 2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-28-65

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE 1-1-2 4166.55

THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b1

(C)

The August 8, 1965, issue of the San Antonio Light, a daily newspaper in San Antonio, Texas, carried an article datelined Austin, Texas, stating that Mark Klein, a Cornell University student, is responsible for the formation of the Committee to Aid the Deacons, the purpose of which is to aid "the Deacons for defense and justice". Klein described the "Deacons" as "an armed Negro self defense group".

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

San Antonio, Texas

August 28, 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

Title THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS

Character

Reference San Antonio memorandum
dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 9

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

5MSGS

FBI BIRMGHAM

[redacted]9PM CST URGENT 9-2-65 HEP

TO DIRECTOR (157-2466)

FROM BIRMINGHAM (157-1446) 1P

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, AKA. RM. OO NEW ORLEANS.
[redacted]

U. S. DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY BRIAN LANSBERG ADVISED BIRMINGHAM OFFICE HE HAD RECENTLY SPOKEN WITH A [redacted] IN EUTAW, ALA. [redacted] REPORTEDLY INFORMED LANSBERG THAT THE DEACONS OF [redacted] DEFENSE HAD BEEN ORGANIZED IN EUTAW, ALA., IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEMSELVES. EFFORTS BEING MADE TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW [redacted] CONCERNING ABOVE. INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER CAPTIONED GROUP HAS BEEN ORGANIZED IN ALABAMA. LHM FOLLOWS.

b7C

REC-66 [redacted]57-2466-5

AIR MAIL COPY FURNISHED NEW ORLEANS.

END

EX 105 SEP 8 1965

5 cpsn

FBI WASH DC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

57 SEP 9 1965

FBI

Date: 9/3/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL - REGISTERED
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (157-1446)(P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.,
AKA.
RM

(OO: NEW ORLEANS)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gal/fw

Re Birmingham teletype, 9/2/65.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are an original and seven copies of a letterhead memorandum containing information indicating that a chapter of captioned organization may possibly have been formed at Eutaw, Alabama.

New Orleans is being furnished copies of instant letterhead memorandum since it is office of origin in captioned matter.

Copies of this letterhead memorandum are being disseminated locally to Military Intelligence Agencies and Secret Service, Birmingham.

Investigation is currently being conducted within the Birmingham Division in an effort to ascertain whether any chapters of captioned group have been formed in the Birmingham Division.

ENCLOSURE

REC-42 EX-103

157-2466-57

(3) - Bureau (Enc. 8) AM-RM
2 - New Orleans (157-3290)(Enc. 2) RM
2 - Birmingham
MME:hss
(7)

16 SEP 9 1965

cc LHM

DATE 9/10/65
FOW FORW: RLS
INITIALS: EJE:cp

C.C. WICK

DIR SEC

Approved: EJE
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

57 SEP 17 1965

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

1400 - 2121 Building
Birmingham, Alabama
September 3, 1965

RE: INFORMATION CONCERNING ALLEGED FORMATION OF CHAPTER OF "DEACONS OF DEFENSE" AT EUTAW, ALABAMA

A characterization of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., is being attached to this letterhead memorandum.

U. S. Departmental Attorney Brian Lansberg advised the Birmingham Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that during the latter part of August, 1965, he had spoken with [redacted] in Eutaw, Alabama, and at that time [redacted] informed him that the "Deacons of Defense" had been organized at Eutaw, Alabama, in order to protect themselves. Mr. Lansberg furnished no further information concerning the alleged formation of a chapter of the "Deacons of Defense" at Eutaw, Alabama.

On September 3, 1965, [redacted] was interviewed in [redacted] Alabama, by Special Agent [redacted] advised that [redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted] further advised that he does not know of any chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice located in the State of Alabama. He stated, however, that he and about twelve or thirteen other Negro men residing in Greene County, Alabama, had spread the word in and around Eutaw, Alabama, that the Deacons of Defense and Justice had organized a chapter at Eutaw, Alabama. He stated that he and the twelve or thirteen other Negro men, above-mentioned, had taken this action somewhat in the nature of a psychological retaliation to combat the parading and demonstrating of Klansmen in and around

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1/SLW/jr

ENCLOSURE

RE: INFORMATION CONCERNING ALLEGED
FORMATION OF CHAPTER OF "DEACONS
OF DEFENSE" AT EUTAW, ALABAMA

Greene County, Alabama. [redacted] advised that he and the twelve or thirteen other Negroes involved had agreed not to reveal the identities of each other for "security reasons" and that for this reason he had rather not divulge their names. He stated, however, that if he does hear of any chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice being formed in Alabama, he will immediately advise the Federal Bureau of Investigation and will also reveal the names of the above-mentioned twelve or thirteen men.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] further stated that he and the above-mentioned Negro men were not in any way affiliated with the Deacons of Defense and Justice, did not believe in violence in any form and did not have knowledge of any supply of guns or other weapons that might be used in regard to the racial situation in Greene County, Alabama.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) DATE: 9/15/65

FROM : SAC, SAVANNAH (157-731)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka
RM

b7C

Rerep of SA [redacted], 8/17/65, New Orleans.

Contacts made with all known sources including police departments, sheriffs' offices and state law enforcement agencies in both Georgia and South Carolina have failed to identify any persons being affiliated with the Deacons of Defense and Justice. Contacts with known and reliable informants have failed to produce any information concerning Deacons of Defense and Justice.

b7C
b7D

For information of Bureau and New Orleans, [redacted], is conducting an investigation pertaining to this organization based on information received from newspaper publicity.

[redacted] advised 9/7/65 that he had no information pertaining to this organization and had been unsuccessful in obtaining any indication that there were members of this organization in the State of South Carolina.

Savannah Division will maintain contact with informants and sources in an attempt to identify any activity in the Savannah Division.

6 - Bureau
2 - New Orleans
1 - Charlotte (Info)
1 - Savannah

NLP/dkm
(6)

REC-64

EX 105

157-2466-58

4 SEP 16 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 Scaff

INT. SEC.

SUBV. CONTROL

SEP 22 1965

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., was formed at Jonesboro, Louisiana, during the Summer of 1964, following incidents involving racial activities, which incidents created tension in the area.

The organization was formed by Negro leaders in Jonesboro for the announced purpose of protecting Negroes and whites from illegal acts and from acts designed to terrorize the Negro community, and was chartered with main headquarters at Jonesboro, Louisiana. Associate chapters are located at Bogalusa and Homer, Louisiana, and inquiries were received from other groups concerning this movement, but no action has been taken to approve additional chapters.

Officers of Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., assert that the organization is a defensive group with no intention to commit or encourage any offensive acts. Leaders of the organization denied purchase of firearms for the group and further denied knowledge of any source of contacts for this purpose.

The President of this organization disclaims any connection with or influence by subversive elements.

FBI

Date: 9/3/65

Transmit the following in ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(Type in plaintext or code)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Via Airtel
(Priority)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND MILITARY DEPARTMENTS

REC-35

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP/SL/LW.7-17-8
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 9-3-85

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-3465) (P)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka
RM
OO: NEW ORLEANS

Re Jackson airtels 8/25/65 and 8/27/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM and two copies are submitted for New Orleans. One copy each is being forwarded to INTC, OSI, ONI, and Secret Service, Jackson. [redacted] and [redacted] have been advised of results in LHM.

[redacted] (c) b1 b7C b7D

EX 110

REC-35 157-3466-59

3 - Bureau (157-2466) (Enc. 8) (RM)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc. 2)
4 - Jackson (157-3465)
[redacted] (c) b1

SEP 9 1965

C. Wick

(1 - 157-452)
JOI/jls
(9)

ENCLOSURE

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SERV.
DATE RECEIVED: 9/14/65
HOW FORW.: RB
BY: REB:C-9.

1cc & cc LHM

Approved: 191 Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per

66 SEP 22 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] was interviewed by SA [redacted] and [redacted] who obtained license numbers at the Masonic Temple and vicinity are [redacted] and [redacted] made available the information to whom license tags were registered.

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] who attended the Deacon's Meeting, mentioned to SAs [redacted] and [redacted] on 8/30/65 that he attended meeting; with [redacted] did not discuss in detail what went on at the meeting.

[redacted] (c)

LEADS:

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION:

AT BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA.

LHM sets forth six license tags as well as to whom registered, address, and make of car. Four of these cars are registered to Bogalusa residents, one to Monroe resident, and one to Angie, Louisiana, resident. The LHM also sets forth names of the alleged Deacons in the meeting in Jackson from Louisiana. Will through sources conduct appropriate investigation to

CONFIDENTIAL

identify individuals from Bogalusa who attended meeting unless already known to New Orleans.

Will attempt to determine CHARLES SIMS and ROY BURRIS' future plans for assisting in the organization of Chapters in Mississippi.

JACKSON DIVISION

AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

Will maintain contact with sources to obtain background concerning organization of DDJ. If Chapter in Mississippi organized, will attempt to determine leadership, strength of members, activities, as well as arms acquired. Attempt to determine potentiality for violence, any subversice or outside influence placed upon the Chapters.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Jackson, Mississippi

CONFIDENTIAL

September 3, 1965

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS

[redacted] (2) b1

The source advised that SIMS is allegedly the president and BURRIS the vice-president of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. (DDJ) Chapter at Bogalusa.

[redacted] (2) b1

The source advised that a pamphlet is being distrubuted showing that the Deacons of Bogalusa will be at the Masonic Temple, Lynch Street, Jackson on Sunday, 3:00 p.m., August 29, 1965. The pamphlet was printed by the Hinds County Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP)

[redacted] (2) b1

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gal/fv 7-12-85
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2, 4, 2
DATE OF REVIEW 4-3-85

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE

157-2466-54

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b1

(C)

On August 30, 1965, the source advised that he had determined the meeting at the Masonic Temple started around 4:00 p.m. and the meeting was called to order by BOLDEN and there were approximately 175 to 200 people in the auditorium. BOLDEN introduced Reverend EDWIN KING, white male, Chaplain at Tougaloo College; Reverend BOB BEACH, white male from Hattiesburg, a special guest. He introduced the MFDP Delegation as HAZEL PALMER, ANNIE DEVINE and JOHNNIE MAE WALKER.

The first Deacon introduced was (first name unknown) WYLIE, described in early 50's, height 5'8", weight 150 pounds, very dark complexion, who furnished background concerning the rise of the DDJ. He stated that all of the Deacons at the meeting were from Bogalusa and they were from the Fourth Street Chapter in Bogalusa.

ROY BURRIS, the vice-president of the Bogalusa Chapter, spoke and he related incidents that have happened in Bogalusa and the fact he believed the Federal Government will eventually support the actions of the DDJ in accordance with basic rights.

CONFIDENTIAL

CHARLES SIMS, president of the Bogalusa Chapter, was introduced and he received a large ovation from the crowd. SIMS introduced the Deacons from Bogalusa who had made the trip and including SIMS and the other speakers, they comprised a total of 12. He introduced (first name unknown) THOMAS, Negro male in early 30's; (first name unknown) JOHNSON in early 20's; (first name unknown) GREEN, Negro male in early 20's, (first name unknown) JOHNSON, Negro male, 65 to 70; (first name unknown) SMITH, Negro male, age about 40.

During SIMS' lecture, he was asked by people in the crowd, How strong a chapter should they have in Jackson as well as in Mississippi? How much money as well as arms does the chapter at Bogalusa have? What are the qualifications to become a Deacon? SIMS stated he would not answer these questions before the group, but any of those interested in forming a chapter in the State would meet with him later and he would be happy to answer these questions.

[redacted]

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted]

The SWP has been designed by the Attorney General of the United States Pursuant to executive order 10450.

The Seattle Branch of SWP is set forth in the appendix section.

[redacted] b on (c) August 3, 1965 that he had determined

CONFIDENTIAL

the DDJ held a meeting at the Masonic Temple, Lynch Street, Jackson, on August 29, 1965. The meeting started around 4:00 p.m. and had several speakers who spoke concerning the impending trip to Washington on August 16, 1965 concerning the "Lobby on Washington, D. C." The source advised that there were 12 Deacons from Bogalusa, Louisiana at the meeting and SIMS was their leader and he spoke on the necessity of organizing a Chapter in Mississippi. The vice-president of the Chapter in Bogalusa also spoke. He furnished a description of the harassment that took place by police in Louisiana and how their children were not protected by school authorities.

[redacted] b1

(c)

[redacted] b7C b7D

advised on August 1, 1965 that the following Louisiana and Mississippi license tags were obtained by [redacted] in the vicinity of the Masonic Temple, Lynch Street, on the afternoon of August 29, 1965. [redacted] advised that the license

numbers have been checked with [redacted] and the person to whom registered and address has been obtained.

The following license and background was furnished by [redacted]

b7
b7

STATE	LICENSE NUMBER	TO WHOM REGISTERED
Louisiana	[redacted]	[redacted]
Louisiana	[redacted]	[redacted]
Louisiana	[redacted]	[redacted]

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED CONFIDENTIAL
RACIAL MATTERS

STATE	LICENSE NUMBER	TO WHOM REGISTERED
Louisiana	[redacted]	[redacted]
Louisiana	[redacted]	[redacted] b7c
Louisiana	[redacted]	[redacted]
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED CONFIDENTIAL
RACIAL MATTERS

STATE	LICENSE NUMBER	TO WHOM REGISTERED
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted] b7
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED CONFIDENTIAL
RACIAL MATTERS

STATE	LICENSE NUMBER	TO WHOM REGISTERED
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]

b7c

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE	LICENSE NUMBER	TO WHOM REGISTERED
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]

b7

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED CONFIDENTIAL
RACIAL MATTERS

STATE	LICENSE NUMBER	TO WHOM REGISTERED
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]
Mississippi	[redacted]	[redacted]

b7c

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

APPENDIX

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY - SEATTLE BRANCH

In May, 1941, a source advised that during the month of May, 1941, the Seattle Branch of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) was reorgainzed and received official recognition as a branch of the Party from the national office of the SWP in New York, New York.

On May 6, 1964, another source advised that the Seattle Branch, SWP, with headquarters at 3815 5th Avenue N. E., Seattle, Washington, is a present active affiliate of the National SWP. According to source, membership in the Seattle Branch includes RICHARD FRASER, who is a member of the SWP National Committee and his wife CLARA FRASER, who is an alternate member of the SWP National Committee.

The Socialist Workers Party has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Execuitve Order 10450.

FBI

Date: September 13, 1965

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gd/jk

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (157-1017 (P)

RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka
"The Deacons"
RM
OO: NEW ORLEANS

[redacted] on 9/9/65, advised that [redacted] has interviewed numerous leaders connected with various civil rights action groups in Southern States.

During a recent interview with [redacted] their conversation turned to the captioned organization. She had heard that letters had been sent out to various residents of Tuskegee, requesting their attendance at a meeting on or about August 15, 1965, at Tuskegee, and soliciting membership in this organization. [redacted] informed her that he had attended this meeting but he declined to discuss the organization with her and did not admit actual membership.

(3) - Bureau
2 - New Orleans
2 - Mobile
CBC:iwd
(7)

C. C. Wick

REC-68 157-2466

4 SEP 15 1965

7 SEP 1 1965

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

EX-101

SUBJECT CONTROL

MO 157-1017

He did appear to have a sympathetic interest in the organization. [redacted] told her to leave "the Deacons" out of her report on the results of her survey.

b7d

[redacted]

Efforts are being made through established sources and reliable informants to verify whether or not a chapter of the Deacons is in existence in the Tuskegee community. Since this has not been established no LHM is being submitted at this time.

New Orleans Office, will advise if informants have knowledge of a formation of a chapter of the Deacons at Tuskegee, Alabama.

FBI

Date: 9/14/65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

AIRTEL _____ CONFIDENTIAL (Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (157-1542) (P) REC-24

SUBJECT: THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

Re Newark airtel to New York, dated 9/10/65 and New York telephone call to Newark, 9/13/65.

Information copies are being supplied to Jackson and New Orleans as New York is of the opinion the captioned and "The Deacons for Defense and Justice" (DDJ) are one and the same.

[redacted] b1

(2)

[redacted] b1

(1)

(3-Bureau (RM)
2-Newark (157-New) (RM)
1-Jackson (INFO) (RM)
1-New Orleans (INFO) (RM)
1-New York

GAJ:pam
(9)

157-2466 REC-24 (AAM) 157-2466 b1

SEP 15 1965

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 Sel/4 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2, 4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 9-14-85

INV. SEC.

SEP 17 1965

XEROX

Approved: 22 1965 Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

For the information of the Bureau and other receiving offices, though there is no information to indicate the organization is sponsoring this affair, the current New York City Address-Telephone Directory reflects the West Side Unified Action Council, phone 362-4954, is located at 100 West 82nd Street, NYC. NY

[redacted] the (c) b1 West Side Unified Action Committee (WSUAC), 100 West 82nd Street, NYC, was formerly known as West Side CORE.

The WSUAC has sponsored or co-sponsored demonstrations, rallies and/or fund-raising affairs during 1965 with one or more of the following organizations:

The Upper West Side Du Bois Club
The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee
The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

[redacted] NY b1

(c)

[redacted] advised. b7D

LEADS

NEWARK

AT NEWARK, NEW JERSEY. [redacted] b1 (c)

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK [redacted] b1

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-3022)

SEP 9 1965

FROM: SAC, WFO (157-583)

ORGANIZATION FOR BLACK POWER (OBP)
RACIAL MATTERS
(OO:NY)

3 - Bureau (Enc. 8)
5 - Chicago (157-678) (Enc. 5) (RM)
(1 -) [redacted]
(1 -) (RAM)
(1 -) (ACT)
(1 -) [redacted]
2 - Cincinnati (Enc. 2) (RM)
(1 - 157-628)
(1 -) (RAM)
2 - Cleveland (Enc. 2) (RM)
(1 - 157-393)
(1 -) (RAM)
5 - Detroit (Enc. 5) (RM)
(1 - 157-958)
(1 - 100-22248) ([redacted]
(1 - 100-22136) [redacted]
(1 -) (RAM)
(1 -) [redacted]
2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 2) (RM)
3 - New Orleans (Enc. 3) (RM)
(1 -) (OBP)
(1 -) [redacted]
(1 -) (Deacons for Defense and Justice)
2 - New York (Enc. 2) (RM)
(1 - 157-1469)
(1 - 100-91911) [redacted]
4 - Philadelphia (Enc. 4) (RM)
(1 - 157-1508)
(1 -) [redacted]
(1 -) (RAM)
(1 -) (Freedom Action Committee)
2 - Portland (Enc. 2) (RM)
(1 -) (OBP)
(1 -) (RAM)
4 - WFO
(1 - 157-583) (OBP)
(1 - 157-528) [redacted]
(1 - 157-461) (RAM)
(1 - 157-425) (ACT)

DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

b7C

ENCLOSURE

HHK:wjj
(34)

50 SEP 9 1965

AIRTEL

ORIGINAL FILED IN 157-3022-156

157-2466

NOT RECORDED
150 SEP 22 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gsl/fr
for Compt 84,266

WFO 157-583

ReNYtel, 9/1/65; reWFOairtel and LHM, 9/2/65; reWFOtel, 9/2/65; reCGtel, 9/8/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM regarding an OBP meeting attended by [redacted] in Detroit, Michigan, on 9/4,5/65. LHM copies being sent as follows: Chicago, 5; Cincinnati, 2; Cleveland, 2; Detroit, 5; Los Angeles 2,; New Orleans, 3; New York, 2; Philadelphia, 4; Portland, 2.

[redacted] furnished the LHM information to SA [redacted] on 9/8/65. On 9/8/65, [redacted] furnished SA [redacted] the copies of the booklets and attachments. Inasmuch as WFO has no knowledge whether New York may have copies of the booklets and SNCC newspaper, no copies were made due to the large number of pages which would need to be copied. WFO will maintain these booklets in the 1A serial of WFO 157-583.

b7

The confidential source in the LHM is [redacted]. [redacted]. It is believed that [redacted]'s identity as a source should be treated as confidential in view of the possible danger existing if [redacted] were disclosed as having helped the FBI.

b7

[redacted] expressed great concern regarding the future of the OBP. He was disgusted, and voiced it, regarding JESSE GRAY's action in having invited RAM to the Detroit meeting. [redacted] stated he was shocked at the arrogant attitude displayed by the reported RAM members at the OBP meeting. He advised that the attempt by the group of about ten men, each carrying an "M-1" Army rifle, to enter the meeting frightened [redacted]. He was blaming JESSE GRAY for showing poor leadership in the OBP. [redacted] stated [redacted] is also very concerned about JESSE GRAY's apparent lack of leadership qualities. [redacted] stated that [redacted] is giving serious consideration to terminating his affiliation with the OBP as he is afraid that some irresponsible individual or individuals may do something which could touch off a riot at some future date. Such an act would give the entire "Civil Rights" Movement a most unfavorable reputation, one that would destroy most of the progress made to the present. [redacted] stated he wants to work for "rights" for Negroes but not where there may be a chance of violence.

WFO 157-583

[redacted] stated that he hopes to discuss the future of the OBP with [redacted] and JESSE GRAY [redacted] will then decide whether he will continue to work with the OBP. He hopes to convince GRAY that [redacted]'s method of moving slowly is desirable. [redacted] praised the efforts of President LYNDON B. JOHNSON in attempting to obtain for all Negroes the rights that have been denied them in the past. b7C b7D

Copies of the LHM being disseminated locally to Secret Service, OSI, MDW, DIO-NDW.

[redacted]

WFO has no characterizations for:

Northern Student Movement
Freedom Action Committee
Deacons for Defense and Justice

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☑ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FBI

U. ED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Washington, D.C.
September 9, 1965

ORGANIZATION FOR BLACK POWER (OBP)

On September 8, 1965, a confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as follows concerning the OBP meeting held in Detroit, Michigan, on September 4 and 5, 1965:

The meeting was originally planned to be a meeting of the OBP "steering committee" and would have been for a small group. However, Jesse Gray, National Director, OBP, on his own initiative, decided to extend an invitation to the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM) of New York City. RAM is described in the appendix section. The end result was a meeting of several hundred persons present at the Detroit meeting of OBP at 5028 Joy Road. Jesse Gray presided at the September 4, 1965, meeting. A copy of the program is attached. Among those present were members of: RAM from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Detroit, Michigan; Chicago, Illinois; Cleveland, Ohio; Dayton, Ohio; and Portland, Oregon; Northern Student Movement represented by Mr. Strickland of Detroit, and some from New York City; Deacons For Defense and Justice represented by Ernest Thomas of Bogalusa, Louisiana; Associated Community Teams (ACT) represented by Nahaz Rogers and wife of Chicago, and Julius W. Hobson, Washington, D.C. Others present were: William R. Davis, of the Freedom Action Committee, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, OBP member James Boggs and wife Grace Boggs, Detroit, Michigan. Lawrence Landry of the Chicago ACT did not attend. Reverend Albert B. Cleague, Jr., a Detroit minister who is campaigning for Detroit councilman, was also present. There were many young Negroes present who were reportedly members of RAM. Many individuals present refused to divulge their identity, especially among those reported to be RAM members. The RAM members had no visible leaders at the meeting. [redacted]

The Saturday, September 4, 1965, evening session was called to order by James Boggs. Registration for delegates was $1 per person. Boggs welcomed those present, and extended his greetings to all.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-18-80 BY SP1 gal/fb

157-3022-156

ENCLOSURE 157-2466-

ENCLOSURE

ORGANIZATION FOR BLACK POWER

Jesse Gray, National Director, OBP, then spoke about the present poor economic conditions of Negroes in the United States (US). Gray also stated many Negroes were against fighting in the present conflict between South Viet Nam and North Viet Nam in which the US is involved. Gray attempted to counsel against the tearing-up and destruction of Selective Service cards carried by young men eligible for duty in the armed forces of the US. This suggestion had come from an unidentified man.

Ernest Thomas of the "Deacons For Defense and Justice" of Bogalusa, Louisiana, was a guest speaker. He talked about "Self Defense" as practiced by the "Deacons" in Louisiana. Thomas voiced his opposition to the refusal to fight for the US in Viet Nam. He stated the "Deacons" hoped to protect themselves and other Negroes against any attacks by "white people" in the South. Thomas stated the "Deacons" have obtained guns for self'defense and have established "ham" radio stations to provide quick communication for the "Deacons". He also urged those present to refrain from becoming involved in any riots or acts of violence.

Two unidentified male Negroes from Los Angeles reported concerning the recent riot and destruction of a great portion of Los Angeles. These men reported as follows: The looting and shooting in Los Angeles was done by organized gangs, not named, who had been ordered to shoot but not hit anyone. One policeman was hit accidently. This occurred as a result of 40-50 young "kids" shooting in the destroyed area. The looting was also done by organized gangs who looted block by block. The organizers were not mentioned.

During the September 4, 1965, meeting, persons reportedly members of RAM urged that Negroes called for induction into military service, go to the local boards and tear up their Selective Service cards. These RAM members also indicated they believed the OBP was much too mild in dealing with the problems of housing, jobs, education, and police brutality as they concern the Negroes in the US.

RAM in Detroit reportedly has assembled 50 to 60 young Negroes eligible for induction into the US Armed Forces at the Wayne County, Michigan, induction center. They are

reported to be ready to tear up their Selective Service cards when called for induction at the induction center. These men were located by an announcement made from an automobile which had been driven around in the "ghetto" area of Detroit. RAM people also suggested that Negroes in the armed forces should refuse to follow orders of officers.

The first confidential source stated on September 8, 1965, that a Negro named General Baker, Jr. of Detroit, is to be inducted into the US Army on September 10, 1965, in Detroit. Plans for sympathy demonstrations protesting Baker's induction are planned for Cleveland, Ohio, and New York City, but none will be held in Washington, D.C.

Julius W. Hobson, Chairman of District of Columbia (DC) ACT spoke concerning his desire to attend the future conference President Lyndon Baines Johnson wants to hold with leaders of the "Civil Rights" movement. Hobson stated his position would result in maintaining a line of communication with representatives of the US Government interested in eliminating poverty, and providing for the essential needs of the under privileged. The general feeling of those present in many instances was that the OBP should not attend any conference called by President Johnson, as they feared further containment in the present Negro "ghettos" of the large cities in the United States. Hobson told the meeting he would attend any conference called by President Johnson if Hobson is invited.

Unidentified persons present critized the United States Government's poverty program and called it a failure.

The OBP meeting on Sunday afternoon, September 5, 1965, was presided over by Julius W. Hobson. The afternoon was devoted to arguments for and against serving in the US armed forces in Viet Nam, opposition to fighting in the Viet Nam conflict, refusal to fight in Viet Nam when ordered to do so, and opposition to the present US poverty program.

During the afternoon session about ten young Negro males carrying "M-1" type rifles attempted to enter the meeting place. The first one was refused admission unless he

disposed of his rifle. That man and the other rifle bearers placed their rifles in a nearby automobile and came to the meeting. There was one policeman directing traffic on a nearby corner during the "rifle" incident. It was not learned whether the rifles were loaded and who carried them.

The Sunday afternoon meeting adjourned at about 3:30 p.m. and about ten persons went to dinner at the James Boggs' home, 3061 Field Street, Detroit.

Later that afternoon a street rally sponsored by RAM was held on 12th Street in eastern Detroit. Several thousand people attended. apparently from the nearby slum area. The speakers at the rally were Julius W. Hobson, James Boggs, Jesse Gray, and Reverend Albert B. Cleage. Hobson spoke about police brutality, poverty program needs, and the need for adequate employment.

An unidentified male Negro of RAM stated at the rally that no disturbance was desired and he urged all to attend the September 10 rally planned as a protest demonstration at the Fort Wayne Induction Station at Livernois and Jefferson Streets in Detroit. He passed out handbills advertising the rally. A copy of the handbill is attached. Unidentified men also passed out copies of the following:

1. Booklet, 16 pages, entitled "The Los Angeles War Cry", "published by RAM. Black Liberation Front of the USA".

2. Booklet, 32 pages, captioned "Black America Arm Yourselves For a War of Self Defense and Survival", "published by RAM. Black Liberation Front of the USA".

3. "Black Vanguard, August 1965", a 59 page book, which can be subscribed to at Black Vanguard, P.O. 502, Detroit 21, Michigan.

Also available during the OBP meetings was a copy of a newspaper published by The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee of California, entitled "The Movement", dated July, 1965.

The first source also advised that Mr. Strickland, Detroit, Northern Student Movement was very opposed to the

ORGANIZATION FOR BLACK POWER

RAM comments. This caused RAM members to try to get Strickland evicted from the meeting.

Comments by an unidentified RAM member at the OBP meeting indicated that RAM is the same as an organization known by the letters ARM. This individual stated that RAM is known as ARM in some cities. He did not name the cities.

[redacted] believed Jesse Gray made a big mistake by inviting RAM to the OBP meeting in Detroit. Their concern was based on the fact that RAM is not a member of the OBP and, therefore, should not have been invited to a meeting which was to be a "steering committee" gathering. [redacted] were rather alarmed at the comments and attitude of the RAM members present at the OBP meeting. [redacted] are afraid that the OBP may be taken over and dominated by RAM.

The first source advised further that the OBP will not participate in any acts of destruction of Selective Service cards or advocate insurrection by members of the US armed forces.

[redacted]

PA

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT

On November 3, 1964, a source made available a document entitled "The Revolutionary Action Movement Manifesto," the document having been obtained by the source from an individual known to be a member of the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM).

NIC

This document stated, in part, that RAM was officially organized in the Winter of 1963 by Afro-Americans who support the revolutionary objectives of Robert F. Williams, now residing in Cuba, and his concept of organized violence to achieve the liberation of the Afro-American people in the United States. This Manifesto disclosed that RAM had oriented its program to one of education and political revolution and the organization of a "black" political party with revolutionary objectives, having recognized the need for a "black revolution" that could and would seize power. RAM philosophy is described in this document as one of revolutionary nationalism, that is, one involving the struggles of the nonwhite races of the world against exploitation and enslavement by the white capitalist and imperialist nations.

Regarding Williams, it should be noted that on August 28, 1961, a Federal warrant was issued at Charlotte, North Carolina, charging him with Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution for the crime of kidnapping. Subsequent to the issuance of this warrant, Williams fled the United States to Cuba, where he now publishes a monthly newsletter entitled "The Crusader" from Havana.

This source in September, 1964, advised RAM is dedicated to the overthrow of the capitalist system in the United States, by violence if necessary, and to its replacement by a socialistic system oriented toward the Chinese communist interpretation of Marxism-L ninism. RAM is entirely nonwhite in membership, clandestine in nature, and owes its primary allegiance to the "Bandung World," that is, the nonwhite races of the world rather than to any national entity, as such.

On November 16, 1964, a second source advised he learned recently from an RAM member that the organization began in Detroit, Michigan, largely under the impetus of Don Freeman, described as the "Father" of RAM and referred to as RAM's "Black Stalin." Freeman served as RAM Chairman, with Maxwell Stanford, now of New York City, formerly of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, serving as RAM Field Chairman.

This source stated in May, 1965, there has been no formal headquarters, as such, for RAM but that headquarters have been with Freeman since he has played such a dominant role in the leadership of and has directed the policies and activities of the organization.

Within recent months, according to the second source, dissension within RAM has become evident and some dissatisfaction with Freeman's leadership has arisen. So far as is known, however, he remains the titular leader of RAM.

To date, according to the second source in May, 1965, RAM has organized units and membership in several of the larger cities in the United States east of the Mississippi River and the organization is currently active in attempting to recruit new members and expand its sphere of influence.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Conference: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR BLACK POWER

[illegible] Way Road, Ground Floor
Phone No. 933 0525

Registration 6 p.m. $1.00 per delegate

Called to order
September 4, 6 p.m.

Saturday evening Session
Chairman, Brother James Boggs

1. Opening remarks by the National Director, Brother Jesse Gray

2. Self-Defense.
Special Guest Speaker, Brother Ernest Thomas
"Deacons for Defense and Justice"

3. "Negro" Conference of U.S.A. President lyndon baines johnson

INFORMATION

1. Breakfast will be served where you are staying.

2. Sunday morning session will be held at above address at 10 a.m. sharp
chaired by Brother Nuhaz Rogers, Chicago, Ill.

3. Afternoon session will be chaired by Brother Julius Hobson, Washington, D.C.

4. Dinner will be served at the home of Brother James Boggs, 3061 Field St.,
3:30 p.m. sharp

157-3022-156
ENCLOSURE 157-2466-

DAMN the DRAFT TO HELL with Whities ARMY

The white racist decision makers (Johnson and the other thugs), must take us for stone fools if they think black people will serve as cannon fodder for the Hitler type war machine designed to mercilessly slaughter Asians in Vietnam.

Especially in the light of the atrocities committed by the racist beast in Los Angeles.

In Los Angeles they called the Bloody slaughter of our people operation "clean sweep". In Vietnam they called the same operation "search and destroy". The victims are the same the world over, dark people fighting white racism imperialism and oppression.

We are serving notice to the white racist that we will fight a nitty gritty, toe to toe head whupping struggle in raceland U.S.A. to liberate our people rather than play a ignomicus slave role on this earth again.

JOIN 50,000 ANGRY BLACKS IN A PROTEST DEMONSTRATION ON SEPT.10 AT FORT WAYNE INDUCTION STSTION AT LIVERMOS AND JEFFERSON.

Join The Sept. 10th Movement

157-3022-156

ENCLOSURE

157-2466

San Antonio, Texas. August 31st., 1965

To Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Wasgington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover;

The enclosed clipping is alarming because of the seeming laxity of the law in permitting this Orhanization of Negros to arm. For self - defense? Never in the history of our country has so much progress for the Negro been accomplished as now.

Anti - Castro Communists refugees from Cuba, endeavoring to accumulate arms for the purpose of regaining their country, have been arrested and their arms confiscated by the law, and, there have been accounts in the Press of Anti-Communists Organizations being arrested for having a cache of arms, yet, this Negro Organization openly arms without restraint.

Copies of this clipping have been sent to President Johnson and Texas Governor Connelly with the above comments, excusing anonymity, by stating that, one fears to sign their signiture since 'our sweet land of liberty' has come to such a sad state of affairs, one may have their tongue cut out for expressing an honest opinion.

Thank you Sir, for having given the matter your attenrion.

United States Citizen.

P. S. Suggestion to our President to quell riots was deportation for the Leaders and Killers.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 Sewell

REC-60 157-2466-62

EX-105

2 SEP 17 1965

ENCLOSURE

Texas

Group Formed To Help Arm Negroes

AUSTIN — (AP) — Mark Klein, Cornell University student, said today a group is being organized to aid the Deacons for Defense and Justice, which he described as an armed Negro self-defense group.

He said the Deacons have chapters in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi.

The Austin group will be called "The Committee to Aid the Deacons," Klein said. He said it will raise money for the Deacons.

Klein, who is in Austin for the summer, is the spokesman for the group.

of Committee to Aid the Deacons

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-12-80 BY SP1 gal/jk

157-2466-62

ENCLOSURE

MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: 9/22/65

FROM : SAC, BALTIMORE (157-1008)

SUBJECT: THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE
RM

Re Newark AT and LHM dated 9/20/65.

[redacted] (C)

b1

Enclosed for Pittsburgh office is a copy of referenced airtel and letterhead memorandum.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

2 - Bureau
1 - Newark (157-1992)
2 - Pittsburgh (Encl. 2)
1 - Baltimore
BFN:ers
(6)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 sbl jfc 7-17 80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 9-22-85

REC-74 157-2466-63

18 SEP 23 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FBI

Date: 9/20/65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code) CONFIDENTIAL

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority or Method of Mailing)

Class 4 8/24 10

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEWARK (157-1992) (RUC)

SUBJECT: THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE
RACIAL MATTERS

Deacons for Defense And Justice

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY 5P/SCL/4 7-17-86
REASON - FCIM II 1-2. 4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 9-20-85

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI-SEC, SER.
DATE FORWARDED: 9-22-65
DEPT. ISD, CRD

Re New York airtel to the Bureau dated 9/14/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of letterhead memorandum captioned as above. Enclosed for Baltimore and New York are two copies of letterhead memorandum. Enclosed for Jackson and New Orleans is one copy each of letterhead memorandum.

No copy of referenced communication was sent to Baltimore.

[redacted] (C) b1

For the information of Baltimore, The Deacons for Defense and Justice (believed to be identical with captioned organization) are a militant Negro civil rights group who have vowed to fight the Ku Klux Klan with physical violence, if necessary. MCT-I 157-2466-64

3 - Bureau (Encs. 8)
2 - Baltimore (Encs. 2)
1 - New Orleans (Enc. 1) (Info)
1 - Jackson (Enc. 1) (Info)
2 - New York (157-1542) (Encs. 2)
3 - Newark
(1 [redacted] (C) b1

REC-67 157-1992-101
cc & cc LHM
808 RB

1 SEP 21 1965

69 SEP

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
JRL:ks
(12)
Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

NK 157-1992

CONFIDENTIAL

For the additional information of Baltimore, New York in re airtel advised that the West SideUnified Action Council (WSUAC) is located at 100 West 82nd St., New York City, according to the current New York City Address Telephone Directory. The WSUAC was formerly known as West Side CORE. [redacted] (c) b1
The WSUAC has sponsored or co-sponsored demonstrations, rallies, and/or fund-raising affairs during 1965 with one or more of the following organizations:

The Upper West Side Du Bois Club

The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee

The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

LEADS

BALTIMORE

[redacted] b1
(c)

NEW YORK

At New York City, New York: Attempt to identify BILL (LNU), mentioned in enclosed LHM and advise Bureau, Baltimore, Jackson, New Orleans and Newark.

CONFIDENTIAL

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Newark, New Jersey

September 20, 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE
RACIAL MATTERS

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

ae
bl

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gpl 1/ju 7-17-8
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 2
DATE OF REVIEW 9-20-85

57-2466-64

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] (c) b1

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, CHARLOTTE (Your file 157-442) DATE: 9/23/65

FROM : Director, FBI (Bufile and Serial 157-2466) ☐ Post in file and ~~destroy 0-1~~ (For SOG use only)

Room No. 808 R.B.

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

Letter will be submitted 10-1-65

☐ 1. Bufiles indicate this case is delinquent. Give specific reason for delinquency.

☒ Reurtel 9/13/65 captioned PROPOSED VOTER REGISTRATION DEMONSTRATION, PLYMOUTH, WASHINGTON COUNTY, N.C., 8/14/65 CR - EL RM

☒ 2. DATE ☐ airtel ☐ report ☒ letter ☐ letterhead memo ☐ 90-day progress letter ☐ submitted ☒ will be submitted 10-1-65

Reporting employee

SEARCHED ... INDEXED ... SERIALIZED ... FILED ... SEP 24 1965 FBI

☐ 3. If valid reason exists for not submitting report at this time, state reason specifically and when report will be submitted

☒ 4. Status of ☐ Appeal ☐ Inquiry ☒ Investigation ☐ Prosecution to verify presence of "Deacons" allegedly sent to Plymouth N.C. from Atlanta, Ga.

☐ 5. Submit ☐ airtel ☐ report ☐ letterhead memo ☐ letter ☐ 90-day progress letter by (Date)

(Place reply hereon and return to Bureau. Note receipt and acknowledgment on top serial in case file.)

Letter dictated 9/27/65.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1964-O-738-077

FBI

Date: 9/22/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL — AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM : SAC, SAVANNAH (157-731) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.,
aka
RM

REC-6

Re Savannah letter, 9/15/65.

On 9/14/65 [redacted] and [redacted], advised that no chapters of this organization have been formed in the St. George, S. C., area but that if harassment of civil rights workers in this area does not come to a halt, they believe a chapter will be formed.

They claimed that several people whom they refuse to identify have asked questions concerning this organization. The questions they claimed were asked of [redacted] in St. George, S. C., on 9/13/65. They also claimed they were not at liberty to divulge the advice given these people by [redacted].

This matter will be followed closely to determine if a chapter is formed in this area.

(3) Bureau (RM)
1- Savannah

HCB:elh
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 Pull 157-2466-65

REC-68

3 SEP 24 1965

EX-117

G - Wick

SUPV. CONTROL

Approved _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

50 OCT 1 1965

0-1 (Rev. 3-5-64)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (Your file 157-1184) DATE: 9/23/65

FROM : Director, FBI (Bufile and Serial 157-2466)

Room No. ~~508-K.H.~~

☐ ~~Post in file and destroy O.1.~~ (For SOG use only)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gal/fv

☐ 1. Bufiles indicate this case is delinquent. Give specific reason for delinquency.

☒ ReBulet 8/17/65

☒ 2. DATE ☐ airtel ☐ report ☒ letter ☐ letterhead memo ☐ 90-day progress letter ☐ submitted ☒ will be submitted LHM will be submitted by 10-1-65

Reporting employee

☐ 3. If valid reason exists for not submitting report at this time, state reason specifically and when report will be submitted

☒ 4. Status of ☐ Appeal ☐ Inquiry ☒ Investigation ☐ Prosecution

☐ 5. Submit ☐ airtel ☐ report ☐ letter ☐ letterhead memo ☐ 90-day progress letter by (Date) 1965

(Please reply hereon and return to Bureau. Note receipt and acknowledgment on top serial in case file.)

Bureau

U S GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1964—O-738-077

FBI

Date: 9/16/65

[redacted] the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-413) (RUC)

RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTER

Re San Antonio Airtel to the Director 8/28/65.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are 8 copies of Letterhead memorandum on captioned matter suitable for dissemination.

Copies of this Letterhead memorandum are being submitted locally to OSI, ONI, INTC, and U.S. Secret Service.

[redacted] is [redacted]

b7C
b7D

LEADS

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI; SEC. SER
DEPT: ISD, CRD, RAO
DATE FORW: 9/21/65
HOW FORW: RLS
BY: 9/21/65

REC-18 157-2466-
EX-113
12 SEP 23 1965

ALBANY

AT ITHACA, NEW YORK

Verify residence of [redacted]

b7C

One copy of this Airtel and LHM designated for Houston for information inasmuch as [redacted] resides within the Houston Division.

ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

3-Bureau (Encl 8)
1-Houston (Encl 1)
~~2-New Orleans (Encl 2) (157-3290)~~
2-Albany (Encl 2) (157-163)
2-San Antonio (1-157-413) (1-157-414) GWHC/cjh (10)

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

35 OCT 1 1965

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

San Antonio, Texas

September 16, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

[redacted]

TEXAS

[redacted]

b7C

[redacted]

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SPI gsh/fr

157-2466 UO

ENCLOSURE

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

TEXAS

[redacted]

The August 8, 1965, issue of the San Antonio Light, a daily newspaper in San Antonio, Texas, carried an article datelined Austin, Texas, stating that Mark Klein, a Cornell University student, is responsible for the formation of the Committee to Aid the Deacons, the purpose of which is to aid "the Deacons for defense and justice." Klein described the "Deacons" as "an armed Negro self defense group."

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

San Antonio, Texas

September 16, 1965

Title DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

Character

Reference Letterhead Memorandum dated and titled as above

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FBI

Date: 9/21/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. De
Mr. Co
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (157-573)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka
RM

Re New Orleans airtel to Bureau dated 8/4/65.

Investigation on 8/9/65 determine that telephone No. 567-5929, the number set forth in re airtel where THOMAS could be reached until 8/6/65 is listed to ... the San Francisco Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

A telephone call to the CORE office determine that EARNEST THOMAS was not in town and further that THOMAS was not expected back in the San Francisco Area for some unknown time. This time was stated to be some months in the future. THOMAS' present whereabouts are unknown to San Francisco. San Francisco was unable to interview THOMAS as it is believed that he left the Bay Area prior to receipt by San Francisco of referenced airtel.

Enclosed is an LHM with eight copies for the Bureau and three copies for New Orleans which set forth THOMAS' known activities in the San Francisco Bay Area. Sources used in the LHM are as follows:

LHM

3 - Bureau (Encls. 8)(RM)
3 - New Orleans (Encls. 3)(RM)
2 - San Francisco
1 - 100-24927 (CORE)

JD/bjd
(8) ENCLOSURE

157-2466-67

14 SEP 29 1965

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI; SEC. DEF.
DEPT: ISD, CRD, RAD

DATE FORW: 9/27/65
HOW FORW:
BY:

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

5 OCT 1965

SF 157-573
JD/bjd

(c) [redacted]

b1
1.4c

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

San Francisco, California

September 21, 1965

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
SLIP (S) 8 DATE 8/1/80

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

[redacted] that Earnest Thomas (C) b1
Vice President and Chief Organizer of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, spoke at a reception held on July 24, 1965, at 3219 Ellis St., Berkeley, California. This meeting was sponsored by the Berkeley Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

[redacted] that Thomas said he was in the area (C) b1
to raise funds. Further, that the current principal aim of the Deacons is to bring full time membership into their organization.

He indicated that the Deacons are a non-political organization and that the organization has been briefed by other civil rights groups to avoid any political organization of any type. The Deacons as individuals or as a group do not participate in civil rights demonstrations in the south but patrol Negro areas of towns to protect Negroes when troublemakers come into those areas. Thomas indicated that an effort was made by the Deacons to screen out "hotheads" who would be apt to cause unnecessary trouble. The San Francisco Chronicle, a daily newspaper published in San Francisco, set forth an interview of Ernest Thomas in its July 25, 1965 issue. Copies of this article are attached for information.

[redacted] that Earnest (C) b1
Thomas was on a regional tour to raise funds. Further, that he was in the San Francisco Bay Area on July 25, 1965, and spoke at a rally

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 SP2 1-4 7-12
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4, 2
DATE OF REVIEW 4-21-85

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ENCLOSURE

held at the Macedonia Baptist Church, 2135 Sutter Street, San Francisco, on this date. This source reported that the purpose of this tour is to set up "Friends of the Deacons."

The "Sun Reporter", a weekly newspaper published in San Francisco, which is directed toward the Negro population, in the San Francisco Bay Area, set forth in its August 7, 1965 issue that a fund raising reception for Earnest (Chilly Willie) Thomas, Regional Vice President and Director of Organization of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, was held at the "Sun Reporter" Building, 1366 Turk Street, San Francisco on August 5, 1965.

The sponsors were set forth as a group of concerned Bay Area Negro citizens to raise funds in order to furnish bail in the amount of $13,000 for 18 persons who are now in jail in Jonesboro, Louisiana.

Rights Army -- The Angry 'Deacons'

The civil rights battle in [redacted] may soon turn into a war fought with weapons of violence if Negroes there are not given protection by local law enforcement agencies, an angry young man warned here last week.

The prevalent philosophy of non-violence, said Ernest Thomas, is not shared by [redacted] Negroes who have joined together in an armed brotherhood known as the Deacons for Justice and Defense.

"We don't intend to turn the other cheek," Thomas said. "Only a fool does that."

Thomas, 32, is a vice president and one of the founders of the Deacons, which was quietly formed some 14 months ago in Jonesboro, La., and today claims "a substantial membership."

"We don't give out any exact figures," he said. "The less the other side knows about us the better."

The "other side" he explained, is composed of "the rednecks and the White Citizens Councilmen . . . and the state police and sheriffs and city cops in the South who either protect them outright or look the other way."

He said that every member of the Deacons owns, or has access to, a gun of some [redacted] ranging from .22 caliber target pistols to high-powered hunting rifles and shotguns.

It is not true, Thomas said, that their arsenals include such weapons of warfare as machine guns.

"I wish they did," he said.

OWN WAY

Asked if the Deacons would lay down their arms if requested to by the many other Civil Rights groups which preach and practice a different method of achieving equality, Thomas said:

"They can come down and play non-violence with those rednecks all they want . . . we who live down there have our own way of handling things."

But the Deacons would never start a war, Thomas asserted.

"We are not violent people as some Southerners might have you think . . . we believe in live and let live—so long as we are left alone to live.

"But if we are attacked we will defend ourselves, either individually or as a whole . . . even if it means dying.

ARRESTS

"We will submit peacefully to legal arrest, but if you think one of us is going to be peacefully hauled off to some jail to get beat up or killed you'll be making the same mistake some Southern sheriff will."

The Deacons claim their right to bear arms and defend themselves is contained in the United States Constitution.

"We hope it won't be necessary to have an organization such as the Deacons in the future," Thomas said. "If we get the protection we hopefully might be able to disband in a couple of years or sooner."

Thomas will speak here at 4 p.m. today at the Macedonia Baptist Church at a fund-raising rally sponsored by various San Francisco civil rights organizations.

ERNEST THOMAS
"We'll defend ourselves"

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2

S.F. Chronicl

San Francisc
Calif.

Date: 7-25-65
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor: Chas. deYo
TRIERIOT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-82 BY SP1 gw/jt

157-2465-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

San Francisco, California

September 21, 1965

Title: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

Reference: San Francisco memorandum dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) DATE: 10/1/65

FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (157-882)

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

Re Bureau Form O-1 dated 9/23/65, Charlotte teletype 9/13/65 and Charlotte airtel 9/15/65, both directed to the Bureau.

In Charlotte teletype 9/13/55 and LHM submitted by Charlotte airtel 9/15/65, both captioned "Proposed Voter Registration Demonstration, Plymouth, Washington County, N.C., 8/14/65, CR- ELECTION LAWS - RACIAL MATTERS," it was reported that the Deacons for Defense and Justice had telephonically contacted [redacted] on 9/10/65 and asked if he needed help in Plymouth and that [redacted] replied that no help was needed and that they were not needed in Plymouth. b7C

No information has been received that there is any chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice in Plymouth or anywhere in North Carolina.

The Charlotte Office has just recently contacted racial informants and sources concerning the Deacons organization and no information was received indicating this organization is active within the Charlotte Division.

Any information received concerning the Deacons for Defense and Justice will be furnished the Bureau and appropriate offices immediately.

(2) - Bureau
2 - Charlotte (1 - 157-882)
(1 - 56-255)

CFW/jb
(4)

REC 70 157-2466-68

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 SCM/K

1 OCT 6 1965

INT. SEC.

60

FBI

Date: 9/29/65

Transmit the following in CONFIDENTIAL
(Type of Message)

AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED
(Priority)

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CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 pl/ 7-18-80
REASON - FCIM II, 1-B, 4-2-2
DATE OF REVIEW 9-29-85

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184)(P)

RE : DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RACIAL MATTERS

OO: NEW ORLEANS

ReBulet to Los Angeles dated 8/17/65 and New Orleans teletype to Los Angeles dated 9/22/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau is an original and seven copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) setting out information concerning captioned organization. Three copies of the LHM are enclosed for New Orleans.

Copies of the LHM are being sent to Region II, 115th INTC, Pasadena, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, Los Angeles, and Secret Service, Los Angeles.

This LHM is being classified confidential because information from sources utilized in the LHM could result in the identification of sources of continuing value and compromise future effectiveness thereof.

Sources utilized in this LHM are as follows:

3 - Bureau (Encls. 8)(RM)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290)(Encls. 3)(RM)
2 - Los Angeles

REC- 56 157-2466-69

RNT:scs
(7)

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI; SEC. SER.: X 109
DEPT: ISD, CRD, ~~HAQ~~, Alcohol Tax (Treasury)
DATE FORW: 10/7/65
HOW FORW: RS
BY:

14 OCT 4 1965

LHM
cc & cc
308 RB

Approved: _____ Special Agent In Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

Sent _____ M Per _____

CONFIDENTIAL

(C) [redacted]

b1
b7c
b7D

LEAD

LOS ANGELES

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA: (1) Will attempt to determine if [redacted] is training a Negro army in the Watts area and the extent of his envolvement with the Deacons of Defense and Justice. b7C

(2) Will advise Bureau and New Orleans of any other activity in Los Angeles on part of SIMS and YOUNG.

CONFIDENTIAL

U ED STATES DEPARTMENT O. STICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Los Angeles, California
September 29, 1965

CONFI NTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
also known as "The Deacons";
CHARLES SIMS, President,
Bogalusa, Louisiana
RACIAL MATTERS

[redacted] (c) b1

[redacted] (c) b1

[redacted] (c) b1

[redacted] b7C

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CLASS. & EXT. BY SPI gpl / fl 7-18-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 9-29-85

157- 9466- 69

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
also known as "The Deacons";
CHARLES SIMS, President,
Bogalusa, Louisiana
RACIAL MATTERS

[redacted] b7C b7D

In June, 1965, Charles Sims appeared on the Louis Lomax television show in Los Angeles where he discussed the aims of the Deacons of Defense and Justice.

A source advised in September, 1965, that Sims had received an unknown amount of money as a result of his appearance on the Lomax show through a collection and that the donations were made by many unknown persons.

Sources have advised in August and September, 1965, that they know of no contact Sims may have had with the LAL-SWP of LA-SNCC while he was in Los Angeles in June, 1965.

[redacted] b1 (C)

[redacted] b1 (C)

A source advised on September 22, 1965 that Charles Sims, President, Deacons of Defense and Justice, Bogalusa, Louisiana, and A. Z. Young, President, Bogalusa Voter's League departed for Los Angeles on September 22, 1965, where Young is to appear on a Los Angeles television show.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
also known as "The Deacons";
CHARLES SIMS, President,
Bogalusa, Louisiana
RACIAL MATTERS

A source advised on September 23, 1965, that Sims and Young had arrived in Los Angeles.

The following article appeared in The Press newspaper, Riverside, California, City Edition, September 23, 1965 issue:

"LOMAX CHARGES JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY TRIES TO BLOCK 'FREEDOM FESTIVAL'

"The John Birch Society has brought 'incredible pressure' to bear on sponsors of the Dick Van Dyke and Robert Vaughn television programs to keep the two stars from appearing in a 'Freedom Festival' tonight in San Bernardino, according to Louis Lomax.

"Lomax, author and television commentator, speaking to a capacity audience at Riverside Universalist-Unitarian Church last night, said that as of last night Van Dyke, star of the comedy show that bears his name, and Vaughn, star of 'The Man From U.N.C.L.E.' are still slated to appear tonight in the show at Swing Auditorium on the National Orange Show grounds in San Bernardino.

"'We are fighting to the last ditch on this', he said.

"Lomax has been a principal organizer of the benefit show, with funds going to help civil rights fighters in Bogalusa, La., and residents of the Watts area in Los Angeles who suffered financial loss in the recent rioting.

"Entertainers scheduled to appear in addition to Van Dyke and Vaughn include Negro comedians Dick Gregory, Bill Cosby and Godfrey Cambridge, singer Sally Janes, San Bernardino

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
also known as "The Deacons";
CHARLES SIMS, President,
Bogalusa, Louisiana
RACIAL MATTERS

"folk singers Sally Thomas and Clabe Hangan and the San Bernardino combo 'The Fasades.'

"Lomax cited the Birch Society pressure as an example of the fact that the civil rights fight is not confined to the South.

"As another example, he told the audience last night that at a memorial service for Adlai Stevenson held in Bogalusa, a stocky white man with a Confederate flag-styled vest stood across the street and shouted, 'You better pray, you black niggers, 'cuz you're gonna die.'

"The man was Connie Lynch, Lomax said, 'And guess where he's from.'

"Lynch, a self-styled fundamentalist preacher and active racist, lists himself as a San Bernardino resident.

"On the same point, that civil rights problems are not confined to a few areas in other parts of the country, Lomax said, 'I've never been in this city before in my life, but I'll bet 15 cents I could get in my car, cross the railroad tracks and find a Watts right here. Am I right?'

"The civil rights struggle, he said, is no longer just a moral matter, 'It's a survival matter.'

"'The very survival of our civilization and our moral lives is involved.'

"The looters in the Watts area, he said, were people from whom our society has failed to provide for their daily needs. He told of a man carrying a sofa out of a furniture store and said, 'The tradegy is the Los Angeles economic society does not provide that man a way to get that sofa any other way.'

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
also known as "The Deacons";
CHARLES SIMS, President,
Bogalusa, Louisiana
RACIAL MATTERS

"While the national unemployment rate among whites is the lowest it has ever been, at 4.6 per cent, the rate for Negroes is 13 per cent and the rate in Watts is 34.9 per cent, Lomax said.

"'What we once called the Negro revolt is becoming a class revolt, a struggle between the haves and the have nots,' he said.

"The present struggle is a great challenge, Lomax said, because ours is a great country.

"'The experiment we are making is the noblest man has ever conceived. We can lead the whole world to a Periclean age. No one man can do it. No one woman can do it. But each must do what he can.'

"Lomax introduced A. Z. Young, a leader of the Bogalusa civil rights movement, who, he said, has had his home shot into, acid poured on his car and has been physically abused, but now works side by side in a box factory with the Klansman who shot at him.

"Young told the audience of determined efforts of the Klu Klux Klan to halt the civil rights movement in Bogalusa, which, he said, were not successful.

"'The Klan is on the way out,' he said. 'They still ride, but now they are careful when they ride and where they ride.'"

A source advised on September 24, 1965, that approximately 600 persons attended the "Freedom Festival" on September 23, 1965, at the San Bernardino, California, Orange Show Auditorium. Entertainment was provided by Dick Gregory, Sally Jones and San Bernardino local talent.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
also known as "The Deacons";
CHARLES SIMS, President,
Bogalusa, Louisiana
RACIAL MATTERS

This source said that Charles Sims and A. Z. Young were introduced by master of ceremonies Louis Lomax as members of the Deacons of Defense and Justice. Sims did not take active part in the functions but Young gave a five minute talk concerning how badly the people of Bogalusa, Louisiana, need money. He stated that the money collected at this affair would be used for the purchase of clothing for the children of Bogalusa and for the payments of fines and bail for civil rights workers in Bogalusa.

This source advised that no announcement was made as to the total amount of money collected. The tickets originally sold for $5.00 but several days prior to this affair, tickets were sold throughout San Bernardino for $2.00 for adults and 50¢ for children. Certain patrons contributed more than $5.00 but that these individuals or how much they gave is not known. The affair was not a success.

This source advised that no comments were made concerning future travel of Sims or Young.

A source advised on September 27, 1965 that neither Sims nor Young appeared on the Louis Lomax television show on September 26, 1965, and that he knows of no other appearances scheduled for Sims or Young.

Sources utilized above have furnished reliable information in the past.

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APPENDIX

LOS ANGELES LOCAL - SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (LAL-SWP)

On May 18, 1965, a confidential source advised that the LAL-SWP has been in existence since the 1930's and continues to exist. The source further advised that the LAL-SWP is a local branch of the National SWP with aims and purposes identical to those of the National SWP.

The SWP has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

CONFIDENTIAL

MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 9/30/65

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: SAC, BOSTON (157-372)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

SUBJECT: PUBLICATION "REBELLION"
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Decons For Defense and Justice

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning captioned matter.

Copies of this letterhead memorandum are being disseminated locally to the 108th Intelligence Group and to Secret Service in view of the militant tone of the newspaper as displayed by its masthead which states "Better to Right on Your Feet Than to Live on Your Knees."

[redacted]

(2p)

b1

10 OCT 21 1965

(C)

This letterhead memorandum is being classified CONFIDENTIAL since it contains information furnished by confidential informants of continuing value whose

ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.; DEPT: ISD, CRD, RAO
DATE FORWARDED: 10-8-65
HOW FORWARDED: [illegible]

ENCLOSURE

(2) - Bureau (Encl. 8) (RM)
2 - Boston
JFN:map
(4)

1cc & cc LHM
808 RB

157-2466

NOT RECORDED
OCT 20 1965

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible] 7-18-
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 9-30-85

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identities could logically be disclosed from this information which could compromise their future effectiveness and be detrimental to the national interests of the United States.

The Boston Division will continue to follow this matter and report any pertinent developments.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-442684) DATE 10/6/65

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (157-927)(P)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

SUBJECT: REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT
IS-RAM
(OO: New York)
ReNYairtel to Bureau, dated 8/27/65.

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (c)

ENCLOSURE

(2-Bureau (Encl. 8)(RM)
2-Jackson (Encl. 2)(RM)
(1-)(DDJ)
5-New Orleans (Encl. 5)(RM)
(1-)([redacted])
(1-)([redacted] b7c
(1-)([redacted]
(1-)(DDJ)
1-New York (105-69417)([redacted](43)
1-New York (100-155126)([redacted](43)
1-New York (100-91911)([redacted](42)
1-New York (157-1469)(ORGANIZATION FOR BLACK POWER)(43)
1-New York (157-1542)(DDJ)(43)
1-New York [redacted] (c) b1
1-New York

157-2466

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128 OCT 18 1965

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(16)

1cc & LHM
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12 OCT 7 1965

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI; SEC. SER.;
DEPT: ISD, CRD, RAO

DATE FORW:
HOW FORW:

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ENCLOSURE

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ORIGINAL FILED IN

EXTENDED BY: Copy sent 1-8-85
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2, 2
DATE OF REVIEW 10-2-85

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X FOR THIS PAGE X
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FBI

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.
Bufile 100-442684

New Orleans, Louisiana
October 6, 1965

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

Revolutionary Action Movement
Internal Security - RAM

[redacted] (c)

A characterization of RAM is attached hereto and the sources mentioned therein have furnished reliable information in the past.

NAMES OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

[redacted] (c)

Maxwell Stanford is described in the characterization of RAM attached hereto.

[redacted] (c)

~~SECRET~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1/pl/fl 7-18-85
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2. 4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 10-6-85

Group I
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ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

157-2966

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☐ For your information: _____

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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1. APPENDIX

CONFIDENTIAL

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT

On November 3, 1964, a source made available a document entitled "The Revolutionary Action Movement Manifesto," the document having been obtained by the source from an individual known to be a member of the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM).

This document stated, in part, that RAM was officially organized in the Winter of 1963 by Afro-Americans who support the revolutionary objectives of ROBERT F. WILLIAMS, now residing in Cuba, and his concept of organized violence to achieve the liberation of the Afro-American people in the United States. This Manifesto disclosed that RAM had oriented its program to one of education and political revolution and the organization of a "black" political party with revolutionary objectives, having recognized the need for a "black revolution" that could and would seize power. RAM philosophy is described in this document as one of revolutionary nationalism, that is, one involving the struggles of the nonwhite races of the world against exploitation and enslavement by the white capitalist and imperialist nations.

Regarding WILLIAMS, it should be noted that on August 28, 1961, a Federal warrant was issued at Charlotte, North Carolina, charging him with Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution for the crime of kidnapping. Subsequent to the issuance of this warrant, WILLIAMS fled the United States to Cuba, where he now publishes a monthly newsletter entitled "The Crusader" from Havana.

This source in September, 1964, advised RAM is dedicated to the overthrow of the capitalist system in the United States, by violence if necessary, and to its replacement by a socialistic system oriented toward the Chinese communist interpretation of Marxism-Leninism. RAM is entirely nonwhite in membership, clandestine in nature, and owes its primary allegiance to the "Bandung World," that is, the nonwhite races of the world rather than to any national entity, as such.

On November 16, 1964, a second source advised he learned recently from an RAM member that the organization began in Detroit, Michigan, largely under the impetus of DON FREEMAN, described as the "Father" of RAM and referred to

CONFIDENTIAL

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as RAM's "Black Stalin." FREEMAN served as RAM Chairman, with MAXWELL STANFORD, now of New York City, formerly of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, serving as RAM Field Chairman.

This source stated in May, 1965, there has been no formal headquarters, as such, for RAM but that headquarters have been with FREEMAN since he has played such a dominant role in the leadership of and has directed the policies and activities of the organization.

Within recent months, according to the second source, dissension within RAM has become evident and some dissatisfaction with FREEMAN's leadership has arisen. So far as is known, however, he remains the titular leader of RAM.

To date, according to the second source in May, 1965, RAM has organized units and membership in several of the larger cities in the United States east of the Mississippi River and the organization is currently active in attempting to recruit new members and expand its sphere of influence.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

CONFIDENTIAL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 10/6/65

FROM : SAC, BOSTON (157-387)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 SCL/ 1-18-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 10-6-85

SUBJECT: FRIENDS OF THE DEACONS, aka
(C) DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
(C) DEACONS
RACIAL MATTERS

Re New York letter to Boston dated 8/26/65 captioned "PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY, IS-PLP".

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning captioned subject. Copies are being sent to New Orleans and New York for their information and copies are being designated locally to the 108th INTC Group and Secret Service due to their possible interest in this group because of its apparent militant nature.

[redacted] (C) b1

The LHM is being classified CONFIDENTIAL since the information furnished by [redacted] (C) b1 could logically result in the identification of informants of continuing value, jeapordize their future effectiveness and could be detremental to the defense interest of the United States.

The information in referenced New York letter to

ENCLOSURE

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6) (RM)
1 - New Orleans (Enc. 1) (Info) (RM)
1 - New York (Enc. 1) (Info) (RM)
3 - Boston (157-387)

[redacted] (C) b1

REC-61

JFM/cap
(7)

157-2466-70

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI; SEC. SER.; FBI, CRD, ~~RAD~~
DATE FORW: 10/19/65
HOW FORW:
BY:

MCT-41
EX 109
OCT 11 1965

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SUPV. CONTROL

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

66 OCT 22 1965

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BS 157-387

Boston is believed to refer to a meeting of the Deacons at Boston since the YMCA where the Deacons' meeting was held is new and the circumstances of the white group being asked to leave the meeting fits with the group mentioned in referenced letter.

The paper, "Rebellion" mentioned in the LHM has been previously brought to the attention of the Bureau.

Boston will continue to follow the activities of this group and report any pertinent information.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Boston, Massachusetts

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

October 6, 1965

FRIENDS OF THE DEACONS, also known as
DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
DEACONS

On August 20, 1965 [redacted] advised that [redacted] had telephonically advised him that he had received a rumor that a meeting of some militant Negro group was to be held at the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), Huntington Avenue, Boston, on August 22, 1965.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] advised that he had contacted the Huntington Avenue YMCA and determined that they were unaware of any such meeting to be held there. On investigating further, [redacted] advised that he had learned through [redacted] that a group calling themselves the Deacons was to meet on August 22, 1965 in the afternoon at the new YMCA, 401 Warren Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts. As far as [redacted] could determine, this was a Negro group and [redacted] believed that it was probably the one referred to by [redacted].

On August 21, 1965, a source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that there exists in the South an organization known as the Deacons. The source described this organization as an armed Negro vigilante group organized for the purpose of protecting the wives and children of the Negroes in the South.

The source advised that on Sunday evening, August 22, 1965 at 3:00 P.M. a group calling themselves the Deacons was to meet at the YMCA on Warren Street, Roxbury. The source

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP/8L/ff 7-18-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 10-6-85

CONFIDENTIAL

~~Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

ENCLOSURE

157-2466-7

CONFIDENTIAL

stated he was not aware of whether this group was actually an extension of the Southern Deacons or whether they had assumed this name on their own.

[redacted] b1

(c)

[redacted] b1

(c)

On August 23, 1965 [redacted] advised that on August 22, 1965 at 3:00 P.M., [redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] was present at the YMCA building, 401 Warren Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts, and observed a small group of persons, both Negro and white, most of whom were men, in attendance at a meeting at the YMCA hall. [redacted] stated that the meeting had no sooner started than the young Negro whose identity is unknown to [redacted] and who was officiating at the meeting, requested the white persons to leave. At this point, Colonel Thomas

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Wright, Executive Secretary of the YMCA, stopped the meeting and told the speaker that the meeting would have to come to a close if people were excluded from the meeting because of their color. The Negro officiating at the meeting told the Colonel that the white persons present who were known to him were sympathetic to the purpose of the meeting and were in accord with his request that they leave.

Colonel Wright stated that no white person would have to leave but the group of white persons present left the hall remaining in the lobby of the YMCA until the meeting was over.

[redacted] stated that donations were asked for at this meeting and several speaches were made stressing the difficulty under which the Negro race live in the South and the necessity groups such as the Deacons in the South receive financial support to enable them to continue to operate. These speeches were interspersed with entertainment by a Calypso band.

[redacted] stated that the permit for use of the hall was taken out in the name of the Deacons by [redacted]

[redacted] stated that several days prior to the meeting, flyers were distributed in the Roxbury area of Boston, Massachusetts which announced a rally sponsored by the Boston Friends to Support the Deacons for Defense and Justice. According to the flyer, the rally was sponsored by the Boston Action group and "Rebellion". The flyer announced that speakers would consist of a representative of the Deacons, a Roxbury victim of police brutality and the editor of "Rebellion". b7C b7D

[redacted] stated that "Rebellion" is a militant type newspaper published in mimeographed form by a Boston group of Civil Rights workers. [redacted] stated that the Boston Action group is a regularly organized Civil Rights group located in the Roxbury area of Boston, Massachusetts.

At the meeting at the YMCA, a second mimeographed flyer was distributed announcing a meeting of "Deacons for Defense". The subject of the meeting was to be the Los

 CONFIDENTIAL

Angeles riot. The meeting was to take place on August 26, 1965 at 8:00 P.M. at the Boston Action group headquarters, 384 Blue Hill Avenue. The flyer stated that additional information could be obtained by calling telephone number 442-9053.

[redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] b1 (c)

[redacted] b1 (c)

[redacted] b1 (c)

XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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3 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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- [ ] Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- [ ] Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- [ ] Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.
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FBI

A characterization of Student Committee for Travel to Cuba is attached hereto.

A characterization of the Progressive Labor Party is attached hereto.

[redacted] b1

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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APPENDIX

1.

COMMITTEE TO DEFEND RESISTANCE
TO GHETTO LIFE (CERGE)

A source advised on February 3, 1965, that CERGE was formed on November 1, 1964, as a front of the Progressive Labor Movement (PLM), presently known as Progressive Labor Party (PLP). All personnel which comprise the committee are PLM members. CERGE was organized to raise finds for the PLM in order that the PLM will have money for bail when it becomes necessary. The people connected with CERGE hope to build it into a national organization.

A second source advised on March 5, 1965, that it is the plan of the PLM to recruit people into CERGE and use CERGE as a recruiting front for PLM members. The PLM plans to give instructions in Marxist philosophy and those who respond will be advanced from CERGE to PLM membership.

A third source advised on February 3, 1965, that CERGE receives mail through Abbott Business Service, a legitimate business operation, 147 West 42nd Street, New York, New York.

The first source advised on May 5, 1965, that CERGE maintains its office at Room 617, One Union Square, New York, New York.

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APPENDIX

1. [redacted]

STUDENT COMMITTEE FOR TRAVEL TO CUBA

"The Columbia Owl," weekly student newspaper of Columbia University, New York City, December 12, 1962, issue, page one, contained an article entitled "Students to Visit Cuba During Holidays." This article stated in part that the Ad Hoc Student Committee for Travel to Cuba was formed October 14, 1962, by a group of students from New York City universities, the University of Wisconsin, Oberlin College, [redacted] the University of North Carolina, who stated that as students they would like a chance to see and evaluate the situation in Cuba for themselves and had received an offer of transportation and two weeks' stay in Cuba from the Federation of University Students in Havana, as guests of the Federation. The Committee accepted the offer and applied to the State Department of the United States for passport validation which was refused; however, over fifty students planned to defy the State Department ban and go to Cuba.

[redacted]

A source advised on December 6, 1962, it was learned the Ad Hoc Student Committee for Travel to Cuba had recently been formed by the Progressive Labor Group.

A second source advised on September 13, 1963, that during the summer of 1963, fifty-nine individuals traveled to Cuba; the leaders of the group were members of the Progressive Labor Movement; [redacted] the trip was planned and organized by Progressive Labor Movement members.

A third source advised on October 9, 1963, the Student Committee for Travel to Cuba was utilizing Post Office Box 2178, New York, New York, as its mailing address.

On March 12, 1965, [redacted] advised as follows:

b7
b7

The Student Committee for Travel to Cuba (SCTC) was formerly known as the Ad Hoc Student Committee for Travel to Cuba and the Permanent Student Committee for Travel to Cuba.

[redacted] was a leader and participant of the 1963 trip to Cuba and an organizer of the 1964 trip to Cuba and both trips were sponsored by the SCTC.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

APPENDIX

STUDENT COMMITTEE FOR TRAVEL TO CUBA

By the Spring of 1964, the Executive Committee of the SCTC was considered to be members of the Progressive Labor Movement.

No trip to Cuba or China was being planned by the SCTC for 1965.

CONFIDENTIAL

APPENDIX

PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY (PLP)
PROGRESSIVE LABOR MOVEMENT (PLM)

A source advised on April 20, 1965, that the PLP, formerly known as the PLM, held its first national convention April 15-18, 1965, at New York City, to organize the PLM into a PLP. The PLP will have as its ultimate objective the establishment of a militant working class movement based on Marxism-Leninism.

"The New York Times," City Edition, Tuesday, April 20, 1965, page 27, reported that a new party of "revolutionary socialism was formally founded on April 18, 1965, under the name of the PLP. The PLP was described as an outgrowth of the PLM. Its officers were identified as Milton Rosen, New York, President, and William Epton of New York and Mort Scheer of San Francisco, Vice Presidents. A 20-member National Committee was elected to direct the party until the next convention.

According to the article, "The Progressive Labor Movement was founded in 1962 by Mr. Rosen and Mr. Scheer after they were expelled from the Communist Party of the United States for assertedly following the Chinese Communist line."

The PLP publishes the "Marxist-Leninist Quarterly," a theoretical magazine; "Progressive Labor," a monthly magazine; "Challenge," a New York City newspaper; and "Spark," a west coast newspaper.

The June 1, 1965, issue of "Challenge," page 6, states that, "this paper is dedicated to fight for a new way of life - where the working men and women own and control their homes, factories, the police, courts, and the entire government on every level."

The source advised that the PLP utilizes the address of General Post Office Box 808, Brooklyn 1, New York, but also utilizes an office in Room 622, 132 Nassau Street, New York City, where PLP publications are prepared.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

PART:2 OF 4

FILE NUMBER:HQ 157-2466

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

COVER SHEET

SUBJECT:

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

PART 2 OF 4

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 10/12/

FROM : SAC, PITTSBURGH (157-429) (RUC)

SUBJECT: THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE
RM

Re Baltimore letter to the Bureau dated 9/22/65.

On 10/4/65, [redacted] advised that there is no known meeting place in Harpers Ferry, W. Va., which might be used for a meeting of the Deacons For Defense, with the exception of the high school auditorium and the National Park Service facilities at the Matner Training Center. [redacted] said that to his knowledge there has been no effort made by any group to have any type of a meeting in Harpers Ferry, W. Va., on 12/4/65.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] identified 12/4 as the anniversary of the date of the hanging of JOHN BROWN at nearby Charles Town, W. Va.

It is noted that the Harpers Ferry, W. Va., Post Office services much of the nearby area located in the State of Maryland.

[redacted] said that the I.B.P.O.E. W. (Negro Elks) have their national headquarters at what is known as the Kennedy Farmhouse, which is actually the farmhouse used by JOHN BROWN and his raiders before their attack on the arsenal at Harpers Ferry in 1859. This farmhouse is located in Maryland, approximately one-half mile from the Samples Manor Church. [redacted] pointed out that the property owned by the I.B.P.O.E.W. includes various outlying buildings besides the Kennedy Farmhouse and specifically, a large hall which has offices and a large dance hall. He pointed out that meetings can be

2-Bureau
2-Baltimore (157-1008)
1-Newark (157-1992)(Info)
1-Pittsburgh (157-429)

REC-67 157-[illegible]

EX-101

OCT 14 1965

ERF:djr
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-21-80 BY [illegible]

INT. SEC.

held in this specific building located at the Kennedy Farmhouse.

[redacted] said that the I.B.P.O.E.W. is now in the process of selling their holdings at the Kennedy Farmhouse with the intention of moving their headquarters to the West Coast, but that no buyer for the property has been found to date. b7[redacted] b7D

LEADS

BALTIMORE

At Sandy Hook, Md.

Will locate the facility owned by the I.B.P.O.E.W. and through established sources, identify the affair planned for 12/4/65.

10/19/6[illegible]

[illegible]

1 - Mr. Murphy

To: SACs Los Angeles (157-1184)
New Orleans (157-3290)

From: Director, FBI (157-2466)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

Reference Los Angeles teletype [illegible] above. Los Angeles should submit by return airtel the [illegible] contained in referenced teletype in letterhead memo[illegible]

The Los Angeles Office should also follow [illegible] with the Los Angeles Office of the Alcohol and Tobacco [illegible] and furnish all available information to the Bureau in lett[illegible] memorandum form.

Although the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division [illegible] primary jurisdiction regarding this matter, the New Orleans [illegible] should closely follow this matter and attempt to develop [illegible] tion through New Orleans sources in connection with [illegible] continuing investigation of the Deacons of Defense an[illegible]

1 - Dallas

BPM:deh
(7)

MAILED 4
OCT 19 1965
COMM-FBI

NOTE:

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Divi[redacted] advi[redacted] that Czech manufac[redacted] delivered 420 [redacted] the Deacons of Defense and Justice at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in July, 1965.

Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms referral

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DATE 7-21-8[illegible] BY [illegible]

REC-56

EX-117

[illegible] OCT 20 [illegible]

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	10/14/65	8/31/65 - [illegible]

TITLE OF CASE	REPORT MADE BY	CHARACTER OF CASE
DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA	SA [redacted] b7C	RI

Deacons for Def. and Just.

NON-PROSECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT

- P -

LEADS

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with [redacted] b7C Ferriday Unit of the Deacons for Defense and Justice.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-21-80 BY SEL

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
		157-2466-73

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1 - ICG, New Orleans (RM)
1 - ONI, New Orleans (RM)
1 - OSI, Barksdale AFB, La. (RM)
3 - New Orleans 2-(157-5624)
1-(66-2404)

6-17 WO Re: 136-65

9 OCT 18 1965

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT				NOTATIONS
AGENCY	ICG	ONI	OSI	Secret Service
REQUEST RECD.				
DATE FWD.	10/25	10/25	10/25	
HOW FWD.	RM	RM	RM	
BY	15 PM	6 PM	6 PM	

FD-302 (Rev. 3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:
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1 - ICG, NEW ORLEANS (RM)
1 - ONI, NEW ORLEANS (RM)
1 - OSI, BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE (RM)

Report of: SA [redacted] b7C Office NEW ORLEANS
Date: OCTOBER 14, 1965

Field Office File No.: NO 157-5624 Bureau File No.:

Title: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

Character: RACIAL MATTERS

Synopsis: [redacted] Ferriday Unit of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, Incorporated, Ferriday, Louisiana, advised that although the unit has been chartered by the National Organization the unit has had no meeting nor is there any firm commitment from prospective members. [redacted] He stated efforts are now being made to secure at least 20 members for the unit at Ferriday, La. b7C b7D

- P -

DETAILS:

This investigation is predicated upon information that a unit of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, Incorporated, had been chartered at Ferriday, Louisiana.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND LIAISON OFFICES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM-II, 1-2, 4, 5, 6
DATE OF REVIEW 10-14-85

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 9/6/65

[redacted] Ferriday, Louisiana, furnished the following information:

[redacted] advised that he did not think that a chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice had been officially formed at Ferriday, Louisiana

He stated during the time when acts of violence were being committed almost nightly in Ferriday, Louisiana, a group headed by VICTOR GRAHAM contacted the Deacons in Bogalusa, Louisiana, to ascertain the procedure for forming the Deacons, at Ferriday, Louisiana. Initially, a representative of the Deacons at Bogalusa was supposed to come to Ferriday to get the chapter started; however, this never materialized. [redacted] that since the violence has stopped in Ferriday, Louisiana, he has heard no talk, either from GRAHAM or anyone else about forming a Deacons for Defense and Justice at Ferriday.

b7c

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On 8/31/65 at Ferriday, Louisiana File # [illegible]

by SA [redacted] / cal SA [redacted] b7c Date dictated 9/3/65

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FD-529 (10-20-78)

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-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 10/15/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (105-2612)

INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF PROTEST
IS - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-21-80 BY

Re New Orleans teletype to Bureau 10/15/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of LHM which relate to proposed demonstration in New Orleans on 10/16/65 reported in referenced teletype.

Enclosed for Milwaukee and San Francisco are one copy each of LHM since these offices are origin in "National Coordination Committee to End The War in Viet Nam" and "Viet Nam Day Committee" respectively.

The confidential source referred to in LHM is [redacted] b7C b7D

157-2466

No information has been developed at New Orleans concerning demonstrations at military bases or concerning draft card burnings. New Orleans will follow the proposed demonstration on 10/16/65 and the Bureau will be advised.

3 - Bureau (Encls. 8) (RM)
1 - Milwaukee (Info) (100-14700) (Encl. 1) (RM)
1 - San Francisco (Info) (100-Viet Nam Day Committee) (Encl. 1) (RM)
4 - New Orleans (2: 105-2612) (1: 100-17231) (1: 157-3290)
NFS:sab
(9)

AGENCY: G-2, ONI, OSI
RAO

DATE FORW:
HOW FORW: 16 OCT 20 1965
BY:

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
October 15, 1965

PROPOSED DEMONSTRATIONS
PROTESTING UNITED STATES
POLICY IN VIET NAM AT
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
OCTOBER 16, 1965

[redacted] advised that there would be a meeting in the school cafeteria at Loyola University at 7:30 p.m., October 15, 1965, in preparation for a demonstration in the form of picketing in front of the Federal Building at 701 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, at 2 p.m., October 16, 1965. [redacted]

b7C
b7I

[redacted] stated that Aubrey Woods, whom he identified as the New Orleans representative of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, would attend the meeting on October 15, 1965. However, the source did not know whether any members for the Deacons for Defense and Justice would take part in the picketing on October 16, 1965. [redacted]

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ENCLOSURE

Domestic Intelligenc .ision

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 10/19/65

De .. Defense and Justice is an all-Negro organization based in Louisiana and having as its main purpose the arming of Negroes for protection against Klan violence. It is the subject of a pending Bureau investigation.

Attached reports Treasury investigation of the alleged acquisition of automatic weapons which is in the investigative jurisdiction of Treasury.

We are advising the Department and following this matter closely.

DPM:deh
(3)

Alcohol Tobacco + Firearms

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
OCT 19 1965

TELETYPE

1059 AM PDT URGENT 10-19-65 PLS

TO DIRECTOR (157-2466)

NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

FROM LOS ANGELES (157-1184) 2P

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, ~~RM, OO:~~ NEW ORLEANS.

[redacted] ATTU, ~~US~~ TREASURY, LOS ANGELES TODAY ADVISED ATTU SOURCE HAS CONTACT WITH INDIVIDUAL CONNECTED WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIAN FIREARMS MANUFACTURER. THIS INDIVIDUAL ADVISED ATTU SOURCE THAT REPRESENTATIVE OF CZECH MANUFACTURER DELIVERED FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY MACHINE GUNS, NOT FURTHER DESCRIBED, TO THE DEACONS AT BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, IN JULY, NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE. WEAPONS ALLEGEDLY STORED BATON ROUGE.

ATTU SOURCE IS OF BELIEF HE CAN OBTAIN LIST OF SERIAL NUMBERS OF A NUMBER OF MACHINE GUNS MANUFACTURED BY THE CZECH FACTORY. SERIAL NUMBERS PERTAINING TO THE FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY MACHINE GUNS TURNED OVER TO DEACONS WILL BE INCLUDED ON LIST.

[redacted] ADVISED HIS SOURCE WILL HAVE TO OBTAIN SERIAL NUMBERS FROM PLANT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. ATTU SOURCE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN DETAILS RE ENTIRE WEAPONS TRANSACTION INCLUDING SERIAL NUMBERS AND POSSIBLE PRESENT LOCATION OF WEAPONS IN BATON ROUGE.

END PAGE ONE

REC-61

OCT 25 1965

55 OCT 28 1965

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DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

PAGE TWO

ATTU, LOS ANGELES, HAS ALERTED THEIR DALLAS OFFICE WHICH COVERS LOUISIANA.

ATF referral

LOS ANGELES WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH ATTU, LOS ANGELES, FOR ANY ADDITIONAL PERTINENT DETAILS.

AM COPY DALLAS FOR INFO.

END

WA...BXG RPP

FBI WASH DC

NO...LWH

FBI NEW ORLS

ATU

(Copies to Offices Checked)

TO: SAC,

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- [ ] Anchorage
- [ ] Atlanta
- [ ] Baltimore
- [ ] Birmingham
- [ ] Boston
- [ ] Buffalo
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- [ ] Omaha
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- [ ] Salt Lake City
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- [ ] Seattle
- [ ] Springfield
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- [ ] Washington Field
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- [ ] Mexico, D.F.
- [ ] Ottawa
- [ ] Paris
- [ ] Rome
- [ ] Rio de Janeiro
- [ ] Tokyo

Date 10/22/65

RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

- [ ] For information
- [ ] Retention optional
- [x] For appropriate action
- [ ] Surep, by

- [ ] The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, conceal all sources, paraphrase contents.
- [ ] Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA dated

Remarks: ReLAtel 10/19/65 and Buairtel 10/19/65.

New Orleans should advise appropriate local authorities, Army intelligence and Secret Service of the contents of referenced teletype.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

Enc.
Bufile 157-2466
Urfile 157-3290

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (157-2466)(RM) DATE: 10/25/65

FROM : SAC, Birmingham (157-1446)(RM) - RUC

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE & JUSTICE, aka
RM

OO: New Orleans

Re BH tel to Bureau dated 9/2/65, AM copy to New Orleans; BH airtel, enclosing LHM, dated 9/3/65.

Referenced communications set forth all pertinent information available to Birmingham concerning captioned group. There are no outstanding leads in this matter in the Birmingham Office.

In view of above, BH is considering this case RUC to OO.

2 Bureau - RM
2 New Orleans (157-3290) - RM
1 Birmingham

MME:fc
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 gsw/fr

157-2466-75

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

10/22/65

Airtel

1 - Mr. Murphy

To: SAC, Chicago (157-572)

From: Director, FBI (157-2466)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS

The following information was contained in a United Press International news release, dated 10/16/65:

> "Chicago--the Deacons for Defense and Justice, a gun-carrying group of southern Negroes dedicated to meeting force with force, plans to establish its first chapter in the North in Chicago.
>
> Earnest Thomas, Vice President of the group, said yesterday the group has 62 chapters in Dixie. The Chicago chapter was planned because the Ku Klux Klan, which the Deacons were formed to fight, is 'moving North and we're going to try to curtail some of its activity,' he said.
>
> Thomas, who lives in Jonesboro, La., the birthplace of the Deacons, said the group operates in the South 'by riding armed with pistols and good rifles in radio-equipped cars.'
>
> He said the primary purpose behind the group was to meet the KKK and similar groups on its own terms."

MAILED 27 OCT 1965 COMM-FBI

REC 30 157-2466-76

1 - New Orleans (157-3290)

BPM:pjh;deh
(5)

ENCLOSURE

16 OCT 27 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

NO 157-5624/dcs

An extra copy of this report is being disseminated to the Bureau for further dissemination to Secret Service, inasmuch as members of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, in some instances fall within category 5(c). In view of this, a copy of this report pertaining to the organization is being furnished to Secret Service in order that they may have a better understanding of activities of various individuals in whom they have jurisdictional interest.

A copy of this report is being furnished to ICG, ONI, New Orleans, as well as OSI, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, in view of their respective interests in Klan matters.

COVER PAGE B*

Airtel to SAC, Chicago
Re: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
157-2466

As you are aware, the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., (DDJ) is a Negro organization having as its main purpose the arming of Negroes for protection against Klan violence. Said organization has been active in demonstrations in Bogalusa, Louisiana.

In view of the foregoing and because of the potential for violence, Chicago should initiate immediate inquiry to determine available facts concerning the plans of the DDJ to start a chapter in Chicago. Follow closely any actual efforts in this regard and if a chapter is organized, develop necessary sources in order to fully obtain information concerning the activities of the DDJ leaders and the group's activities.

You should be alert to any indications of subversive and/or outside influences on the DDJ. Also, you should establish such sources as may be necessary to run out information regarding weapons reportedly possessed by the DDJ and any leads regarding weapons' suppliers.

Chicago should also be alert for any information indicating an extension of the DDJ to other northern cities. Leads should be promptly set out and New Orleans, the office of origin, fully informed concerning developments.

Bureau must be promptly advised of all developments regarding the DDJ and information suitable for dissemination should be submitted by letterhead memorandum.

Tolson
Mohr
Tele Room
Holmes
Gandy

UPI-42

(RACIAL)

CHICAGO--THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, A GUN-CARRYING GROUP OF SOUTHERN NEGROES DEDICATED TO MEETING FORCE WITH FORCE, PLANS TO ESTABLISH ITS FIRST CHAPTER IN THE NORTH IN CHICAGO.

EARNEST THOMAS, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GROUP, SAID YESTERDAY THE GROUP HAS 52 CHAPTERS IN DIXIE. THE CHICAGO CHAPTER WAS PLANNED BECAUSE THE KU KLUX KLAN, WHICH THE DEACONS WERE FORMED TO FIGHT, IS "MOVING NORTH AND WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO CURTAIL SOME OF ITS ACTIVITY," HE SAID.

THOMAS, WHO LIVES IN JONESBORO, LA., THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE KLAN, SAID THE GROUP OPERATES IN THE SOUTH "BY RIDING ARMED WITH PISTOLS AND GOOD RIFLES IN RADIO-EQUIPPED CARS."

HE SAID THE PRIMARY PURPOSE BEHIND THE GROUP WAS TO MEET THE KKK AND SIMILAR GROUPS ON ITS OWN TERMS.

10/16--TD1CLSAED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

ENCLOSURE

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

CONFIDENTIAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

FBI NEW YORK

9-39 PM EDT URGENT 10/22/65 M.F.R.

TO DIRECTOR, FBI //19// AND NEW ORLEANS

-----/ NEW ORLEANS VIA WASHINGTON ENCODED \-----

FROM NEW YORK /157-1542/ 1 PAGE

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RM. [redacted]

CLASS. & EXT. BY
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 10-22-85

[redacted] b1 b7 b7

[redacted]

LHM FOLLOWS. NYO WILL COVER.

REC-21

ND -

JA...MSE

FBI WASH DC

EX-113

CONFIDENTIAL

FEDERAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

CONFIDENTIAL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

DATE: 10/25/65

FROM : SAC, JACKSON (157-3465) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., AKA RACIAL MATTER

(OO: New Orleans)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gpl/ [illegible]

REASON: FCIM II, 1-2

DATE OF REVIEW 10-26-85

Re Jackson airtel with LHM dated 9/3/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of [illegible] and two copies are submitted for New Orleans. One copy is being forwarded to INTC, OSI, ONI, and Secret Service. [redacted] and [redacted] have been advised of [illegible] in LHM.

The investigation set forth in the LHM was conducted by SA [redacted]. b7C

[redacted]

LEADS:

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA

Will through sources conduct appropriate [illegible] to determine CHARLES SIMS and ROY BURRIS further plans for assisting in the organization of chapter in Mississippi. [illegible] advise Jackson in the event the Bogalusa Chapter or any other chapters send deacons to Mississippi for meetings.

2 - Bureau (157-2466) (Encs. 8) (RM)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Encs. 3) (RM)
5 - Jackson (157-3465) (Encs. 5)
JIO/kmn
(9)

b1 [redacted] (c)

(1 - 157-453) (RM)
(1 - 157-[illegible]) [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE [illegible]
HOW FORM [illegible]
BY [illegible]

JN 157-3465

CONFIDENTIAL

JACKSON DIVISION

AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Will maintain contact with sources to obtain background concerning organization of Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ). If chapter in Mississippi organized, will attempt to determine leadership, strength of members, activities as well as arms acquired.

Will attempt to determine potentiality for violence and any outside influence on chapters.

Will determine if DDJ from Louisiana arrived in Mississippi for discussions with possible DDJ members.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Jackson, Mississippi

October 25, 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS

[redacted] advised on September 23, 1965 he attended a meeting at the Masonic Temple located on Lynch Street in Jackson on August 30, 1965. The meeting was sponsored by the Hinds County MFDP and the MFDP arranged to have individuals with the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated (DDJ) Chapter at Bogalusa, Louisiana, to be there.

[redacted] stated he attended the meeting and there were approximately 175 to 200 people in attendance and the principal speakers were Charles Sims, President of the Bogalusa Chapter and Roy Burris, Vice President of the Bogalusa Chapter. There were other DDJ members from the Bogalusa Chapter present at the meeting. Arrangements were made to have the members of the DDJ from Bogalusa return to Jackson around September 15 to determine what steps had been made to arrange for DDJ Chapters in Mississippi, especially in Jackson. He said Sims and Burris had advised the persons in attendance they would have to raise funds to form chapters.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] stated that to his knowledge Sims and Burris have not returned to Mississippi and there has been no great interest in forming chapters in Jackson or in Mississippi.

On October 15, 1965, [redacted] advised that to his knowledge there had been no chapters formed in the State of Mississippi and he does not believe Sims, Burris or

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 pw 1 fn 7-21-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 02
DATE OF REVIEW 10-25-85

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CONFIDENTIAL

78

any other representatives of the DDJ in Louisiana have returned to Mississippi.

[redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] has advised he has received no pertinent information of any DDJ Chapters being formed in the State of Mississippi. He said they were following this matter very closely.

[redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] has advised he has received no pertinent information concerning any chapters being formed in the State of Mississippi by the DDJ.

[redacted] b1

that he had determined there was a group of Negroes in Natchez, Mississippi, who were interested in [illegible] organization of the DDJ in Natchez. He said there had been protest demonstrations in Natchez by the [illegible] and several Negroes believe they should organize for their own protection. [redacted] that the [illegible] the Negroes in Natchez appears to [illegible] [redacted] b1 b7C

[redacted] b1

to his knowledge there has been no DDJ Chapter formed in Natchez. Although there have been protest demonstrations and marches in Natchez almost on a daily basis, they have been orderly demonstrations. [redacted] that [illegible] has determined that Charles Sims and Roy Burris may [illegible] to Mississippi around the last part of October, 1965, to confer with MFDP leaders concerning the forming of chapters in Mississippi. b1

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DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b1

[redacted] attended the meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, on August 30, 1965, at the Masonic Temple where Deacons from the Bogalusa Chapter spoke to the assembled group. She said Sims and his group were expected to return to Jackson in September to assist in forming groups but they did not. She believes that the Negroes in the State of Mississippi are not interested in forming DDJ Chapters. She based this statement upon the fact MFDP has no funds to support chapters in the State and the Negroes themselves will not support chapters.

She said Sims and Burris had stated they would return to Mississippi but to her knowledge they have not returned to date.

The Jackson, Mississippi "Clarion-Ledger" dated September 10, 1965, carried an article by the Associated Press entitled "Natchez Negroes Reject Deacons for Defense." The article related that Kenneth Dean, Director of the Mississippi Human Relations Council, had told reporters that Negroes in the racial torn city of Natchez had turned down offers to organize a chapter of the militant "Deacons of Defense."

[redacted] that Charles Sims had stated he had been in Jackson, Mississippi the week of August 30, 1965, trying to organize the DDJ at Jackson. [redacted] Sims had indicated the Negroes of Jackson were very reluctant to get involved in the DDJ. b1

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CONFIDENTIAL

FBI

Date: October 25, 1965

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED

(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184) (P)

RE : DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM
OO: New Orleans.

Re Los Angeles airtel to the Bureau dated 9/29/65 captioned as above, with eight copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) enclosed; New Orleans letter to Los Angeles, dated 10/15/65; Los Angeles teletype to the Bureau and New Orleans dated 10/19/65, and Bureau airtel to Los Angeles and New Orleans, dated 10/19/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau is an original and [illegible] copies of an LHM concerning the above-captioned organization's possible receipt of machine guns from a Czechoslovakian firearms manufacturer.

Three copies of the LHM are enclosed for the office of origin, New Orleans, and one copy for Dallas, inasmuch as the Dallas Office of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, U.S. Treasury Department, covers Louisiana. One copy each is also being sent to OSI, Maywood, California, FIO, Los Angeles, and Secret Service, Los Angeles.

3 - Bureau (Encs. 8) (Air Mail - Registered)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Encs. 3) (Air Mail - Registered)
1 - Dallas (Enc. 1) (Air Mail - Registered)
2 - Los Angeles (157-1184)
RNT:HMS
(8)

EX-112 REC-70 157-2466-79

AGENCY: [illegible]
DATE [illegible]
NOW [illegible]
BY: [illegible]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE [illegible] BY [illegible]

Approved: _____ Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

LA 157-1184

For the information of the Bureau and New Orleans, on 10/11/65, [redacted] advised that there was no further activity in the San Bernardino-Riverside and Los Angeles area on the part of CHARLES SIMS and A.Z. YOUNG after their appearance at the "Freedom Festival" on 9/23/65, at San Bernardino, California. New Orleans advised 10/15/65, that a source had advised that SIMS and YOUNG have returned to the Bogalusa area.

b1
b7
b7

The information concerning the machine guns was received from ATTU Agent [redacted] Los Angeles, who obtained the information from an ATTU source.

AT

This LHM is being classified confidential because the information tends to identify the ATTU source.

Los Angeles will maintain close contact with New Orleans for any additional pertinent details.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Los Angeles, California
October 25, 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

On October 19, 1965, a representative of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, U.S. Treasury Department, Los Angeles, California, advised that an ATTU source had reported that a representative of a Czechoslovakian firearms manufacturer delivered 74 machine guns, not further described, to the "Deacons" at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in July, 1965. This source said that the weapons are allegedly stored in Baton Rouge.

ATF

Efforts are being made by the ATTU source to obtain serial numbers of the weapons and other details concerning the transaction, including the possible location of the weapons.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~Group I~~

~~Excluded from~~ automatic ~~downgrading~~ and ~~declassification~~

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 [illegible]
ON 7-21-82

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

M E M O R A N D U M

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI DATE: 10/28/65

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (157-1542) (P) CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE
RACIAL MATTERS

Re Newark airtel and LHM to the Bureau, dated 9/20/65.

[redacted] (C)

b1
b7C

2 - Bureau
2 - Baltimore
2 - Jackson
1 - Newark (157-1542)
2 - New Orleans
1 - New York (157-1549) ([redacted] (43)
1 - New York

b7C

GAJ:lls
(12)

EX 110

REC- 41 157-2466-Y

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 2 1 2
DATE OF REVIEW 10-28-85

30 NOV [illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL

NY 157-1542

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

b7D

[redacted] made available a leaflet(S) b1
indicating a "discotheque party" was to be held 9/25/65,
at 9:30 PM, under the auspices of "The John Brown
Commemoration Committee" (JBCC), 100 W. 82nd St., NY 24,
NY, Phone EN 2-4954. It is to be noted that this is the
address where the benefit for the DDJ was held on 9/18/65.

NYO indices negative re JBCC.

On 10/27/65, [redacted] advised their files contain no information re JBCC.

b7C
b7D

CONFIDENTIAL

FBI

Date: 10/26/65

Transmit following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code) CONFIDENTIAL

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (157-1542)

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

Re New York teletype to Bureau, 10/22/65.

Enclosed for Bureau and New Orleans are copies of LHM in above case.

[redacted]

[redacted]

b1

This LHM is classified "Confidential" to protect identities of above sources. Unauthorized disclosure of information attributed to these sources might impair their future effectiveness and such impairment could have an adverse effect on the national defense interest.

3-Bureau (Encls. 8)
3-New Orleans (Encls. 3)
1-New York

VJA:mjb
(8)

CLASS. & EXT. BY _____
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2, 4-5
DATE OF REVIEW 10-26-85

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NY 137-1542

[redacted] furnished information to Special Agent [redacted]. [redacted] furnished information to Special Agent [redacted]. b7C b7D

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

New York, New York
October 26, 1965

NYfile 157-1542

Bescom For Defense and Justice
Racial Matters

Characterizations for individuals mentioned in this communication are set forth at the end thereof.

Confidential sources utilized in this communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

[redacted]

b1

[redacted] (C)

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASS. & EXT. BY SPI/SCL/JR 7-21-82 ~~GROUP I~~
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 2 ~~Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification~~
DATE OF REVIEW 10-26-85

ENCLOSURE

Deacons For Defense and Justice
Racial Matters

The subscriber to telephone 749-8745 is Friends of the Deacons For Defense and Justice, 271 West 125th Street, New York City.

[redacted] advised October 25, 1965, that Charles Sims, President of the DDJ in Louisiana, arrived in New York City at 1:15 p.m. on Flight 976 Delta Airlines on October 23, 1965.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] advised on October 25, 1965, that Jessie Gray of the Community Council on Housing held a street rally at 125th Street and 7th Avenue, New York City, from 3 to 6 p.m., October 23, 1965, attended by about 115 people. No disturbances occurred during this rally. [redacted] had no information to indicate that Charles Sims participated in this rally.

[redacted] (c) b1

A mass rally on black power politics, spearheaded by Jesse Gray, Harlem rent strike organizer, was held on Saturday afternoon, October 23, 1965, from 3 to 6 p.m. Jesse Gray brought a sound truck to this location at 3:00 p.m. He left at the beginning of the rally but returned later. Meantime, the sound truck was loaned to LeRoi Jones and his Black Arts Group. LeRoi Jones took occasion to belabor the Haryou-Act, a Harlem anti-poverty organization, for cutting off his pay. He wanted the group to conduct a demonstration at the offices of Haryou-Act, but this did not materialize.

Charles Sims from Bogalusa, Louisiana, did not show up at this rally; however, Mae Mallory was there and was one of the speakers. She urged support for the DDJ and praised its work for defense of negroes in the South. She also appealed for funds for the DDJ.

Deacons For Defense and Justice
Racial Matters

Jesse Gray and Rudolph Jones also spoke at the rally and criticized current candidates for political office in New York City. Jesse Gray wanted Negroes to unite and thus exert their own black political power. The rally terminated at 6:00 p.m.

[redacted] (c)

b1
b7C

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

The Fair Play For Cuba Committee is characterized in the Appendix.

[redacted] (c)

Deacons For Defense and Justice
Racial Matters

[redacted] (c)

b1
b7C

The WWP is characterized in the Appendix.

[redacted] (c)

CONFIDENTIAL

1. APPENDIX

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

The April 6, 1960, edition of "The New York Times" newspaper contained a full-page advertisement captioned "What Is Really Happening In Cuba," placed by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC). This advertisement announced the formation of the FPCC in New York City and declared the FPCC intended to promulgate "the truth about revolutionary Cuba" to neutralize the distorted American press.

"The New York Times" edition of January 11, 1961, reported that at a hearing conducted before the United States Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on January 10, 1961, Dr. CHARLES A. SANTOS-BUCH identified himself and ROBERT TABER as organizers of the FPCC. He also testified he and TABER obtained funds from the Cuban Government which were applied toward the cost of the aforementioned advertisement.

On May 16, 1963, a source advised that during the first two years of the FPCC's existence there was a struggle between Communist Party (CP) and Socialist Workers Party (SWP) elements to exert their power within the FPCC and thereby influence FPCC policy. This source added that during the past year there had been a successful effort by FPCC leadership to minimize the role of these and other organizations in the FPCC so that their influence as of May, 1963, was negligible.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On May 20, 1963, a second source advised that VINCENT "TED" LEE, FPCC National Office Director, was then formulating FPCC policy and had indicated that he had no intention of permitting FPCC policy to be determined by any other organization. This source stated that LEE believed that the FPCC should advocate resumption of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States and should support the right of Cubans to manage their revolution without interference from other nations. LEE did not advocate supporting the Cuban revolution per se.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

2. APPENDIX

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

The November 23, 1963, edition of "The New York Times" reported that Senator THOMAS J. DODD of Connecticut had called FPCC "the chief public relations instrument of the CASTRO network in the United States." It is to be noted that Senator DODD was a member of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, which twice conducted hearings on the FPCC.

The December 27, 1963, edition of "The New York World Telegram and Sun" newspaper stated that the pro-CASTRO FPCC was seeking to go out of business and that its prime activity during its lifetime had been sponsorship of pro-CASTRO street rallies and mass picket lines, and the direction of an active propaganda mill highlighting illegal travel-to-Cuba campaigns. Its comparatively brief span of life was attributed to mounting anti-CASTRO American public opinion, the 1962 Congressional hearings which disclosed FPCC financing by CASTRO's United Nations Delegation, and ultimately, the bad publicity which the FPCC received from disclosure of activities on its behalf by suspected presidential assassin, LEE H. OSWALD.

On February 6, 1964, the previously mentioned second source advised that V. T. LEE had recently remarked that the FPCC was dead and that there were no plans to organize another similar organization.

On April 13, 1964, a third source advised that there had not been any FPCC activity in many months and that the FPCC had been dissolved.

CONFIDENTIAL

APPENDIX

WORKERS WORLD PARTY

On April 17, 1959, a confidential source advised that on February 12, 1959, a Socialist Workers Party (SWP) minority group under the leadership of National Committee member, SAM BALLAN, split from the SWP.

The source stated that this minority group, referred to as the Marcyites, after many years of program and policy differences on varied issues concerning tactics and interpretation of political events, split from the SWP on the grounds that the Party was liquidating itself by [illegible] from the Marxist precepts of LEON TROTSKY and retreating from the fight for the world socialist revolution. The final issue which ultimately forced the split was the minority's opposition to the SWP regroupment policy which involved [illegible]-operation with the Communist Party (CP) periphery-individuals characterized by the minority as petty-bourgeois.

The minority program, according to source, advocated unconditional defense of the Soviet Union and has as its goal the building of a revolutionary party with a complete proletarian orientation for the purpose of overthrowing capitalism in the United States and throughout the world.

On May 12, 1960, source advised that this minority group had chosen the name Workers World Party.

On May 3, 1965, second source advised that the Workers World Party, which maintains headquarters at 46 West 2[illegible] Street, New York, New York, supports the People's Republic of China in its ideological dispute with the Soviet Union.

The SWP and the CP have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

FBI

Date: 10/26/65

Transmit the following in CONFIDENTIAL
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL
(Priority)

HEARING TO BE SET EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RM

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gal/jhl 7-21
REASON - FCI
DATE OF REVIEW

Re Bureau airtel to Chicago dated 10/22/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of a letterhead memorandum and for New Orleans three copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning captioned matter.

[redacted] is [redacted] (protect - requested). b7C b7D

On 10/23/65, [redacted] advised that intensive investigation has been conducted concerning EARNEST THOMAS while he has been in Chicago and there is no indication that he has any office in Chicago at the present time. [redacted] that spot surveillances of THOMAS have been conducted in Chicago but no address has been developed for THOMAS in Chicago.

One copy of this letterhead memorandum is being designated for Secret Service, Chicago, and one copy for the USA, Chicago.

4 - Bureau (Encl 9) (RM)
(1 - 157-) [redacted] b7C
3 - New Orleans (DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.)
(Encl 3) (RM)
(1 - 157-) [redacted]
3 - Chicago
(1 - 157-840) [redacted]
(1 - 157-413)

DEC 52

157-2466-62

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.
DEPT: ISD, CRD, RAD
DATE FORW: 10/29/65
HOW FORW:
BY:

LGR:mhm
(10)

16 OCT 27

Approved: Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

LEADS

NEW ORLEANS

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA. Will furnish Chicago a photograph of EARNEST THOMAS and any information that Chicago Chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., has been organized in Chicago.

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will be alert for any information concerning the opening of the Chicago Chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., and the Bureau and New Orleans will be kept fully informed of developments in this matter.

[redacted] b1

(c) [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

CONFIDENTIAL

Chicago, Illinois
October 26, 1965

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS

The following article captioned "Militant Negroes Here Forming Armed Unit to Fight the Klan" appeared in the October 15, 1965 issue of the "Chicago Daily News," a Chicago, Illinois newspaper:

"Militant Negroes are organizing a Chicago chapter of the gun-carrying Deacons for Defense and Justice, a vigilante group active in battling the Klue Klux Klan in the South.

"'We believe there are Klansmen active in this city and we're confident they have thousands of sympathizers here,' said Earnest Thomas, 32, the Deacons' vice president and their full-time paid national organizer.

"'While we have 62 chapters quite active in the South, Chicago will be our first Northern chapter,' he said.

"'We expect to operate with freedom patrols up here and be alert for police brutality against Negroes. And we'll also campaign against shady deals that are often pulled off on us Negroes in the North.

"'The extent of our stay in Chicago will depend on how things improve here for Negroes.'

"THOMAS, father of five, told in an interview here how he and other Deacons do battle against Klansmen.

CLASSIFIED BY SP1 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 10-26-85

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE

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"'We don't teach hatred,' Thomas said.

"'We do teach that you have to meet force with force. The only thing that the Klan respects is force. It is also the only thing understood by the others who battle Negroes such as the John Birch Society, the Minute Men, and the American Nazi Party.

"'We usually operate down South by riding armed with pistols and good rifles in radio-equipped cars. We've had a couple of gun battles recently with the Klan but nobody was seriously hurt. We think we sent some Klansmen to the hospital.'

"THOMAS said Deacons never shoot unless somebody else shoots first.

"'We simply meet violence against Negroes with violence, and it has worked. The Klan is quieter now in the South because of us and the hearings set by the House Un-American Activities Committee in Washington next week.'

"'The local police have protected the Klan and even the federal government, the Federal Bureau of Investigation included, have been ineffectual in fighting Klansmen.

"The Deacons' activity is 'absolutely within the law,' Thomas maintains.

"'We were organized in Jonesboro, La., about 18 months ago because of violence, and threats, by white gangs,' he said. 'Legally, we're above board because the Bill of Rights allows any citizen to bear arms in defense of life and property.

"'In Louisiana we're allowed ownership of weapons as long as they are not concealed. Our weapons are

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never concealed. We're a civil rights group but we don't demonstrate in the streets. We observe and then act if it is necessary.'

"THOMAS, a Korean war veteran, is outspoken in his criticism of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and his non-violent southern Christian Leadership Conference.

"'Talk doesn't solve anything,' Thomas said.

"'We Negroes are not going to gain our freedom by talking. We Negroes can't continue to let the Klan and similar hate groups trample on us. King and I really live in two different worlds.'

"Thomas is scheduled to debate the Rev. James Bevel, one of King's top aids, at 8 p.m. Saturday in the First Congregational Church, 1613 W. Washington Blvd.

"They will debate the topic, 'Non-violence vs. Self-defense.'"

The following article captioned "Rights Leaders Reject Plan to Start Deacons" appeared in the October 18, 1965, issue of the "Chicago Defender," a Chicago, Illinois newspaper:

"Two Chicago rights leaders gave a short shrift to the announcement that the gun-carrying Deacons for Defense and Justice was planning to establish its first Northern chapter in Chicago.

"Earnest Thomas, Deacons' vice-president, had said over the weekend in Chicago that his group, dedicated to meeting force with force, has 62 chapters in Dixie.

"The Chicago chapter was planned because the Ku Klux Klan, which the Deacons were formed to fight, is 'moving North and we are going to try to curtail some of its activity,' he said.

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"Timuel Black, president of the Negro American Labor Council, said the people's frustrations had called such a group in existence.

"'But I am personally not in favor of this kind of threat. I don't know these fellows or anything about their activities. We don't run with this kind of people.'

"Black, an executive in the Coordinating Council of Community Organizations, said, on the other hand, that 'unless Chicago changes its racial policies, it can expect many kinds of things.'

"Rev. Lynward Stevenson, president of The Woodlawn Organization, said 'All my friends are non-violent.'

'The militant leader said he didn't know anything about Deacons' activities in Chicago. 'But if theire arming themselves, I'd want to know.'

"This group knows only 'how to get rid of the Klan,' he said. They don't know anything about law and order and the ordinary ways of achieving justice.'

"'It's just propaganda,' he said, 'that there are many Klansmen around, in Chicago or elsewhere. The K. is not nearly as strong as the Grand Wizard has reported.'

"Thomas, who lives in Jonesboro, La., the birthplace of the Deacons, said the group operates in the South 'by riding armed with pistols and good rifles in radio-equipped cars.'

"He said the primary purpose behind the group was to meet the KKK and similar groups on its own terms."

[redacted] b1 that no information(2) has been developed which would indicate that a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. (DDJ) has been organized.

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Chicago. [redacted] that Earnest Thomas has been in Chicago attempting to interest various groups and individuals in the DDJ but apparently has had no success. [redacted] that there has not been any indication that THOMAS has attempted to purchase or obtain any weapons while in Chicago.

On October 25, 1965, [redacted] advised that no information has been developed that a chapter of the DDJ has been formed in Chicago. [redacted] stated that Earnest Thomas has reportedly attempted to interest various groups and individuals in Chicago in forming a Chicago chapter but has had no success in these attempts.

Confidential informants who are acquainted with certain racial matters in the Chicago, Illinois, area advised during October, 1965, that Earnest Thomas of the DDJ has recently been in Chicago attempting to gain support for a Chicago Chapter of the DDJ. Thomas has not had any success in organizing a Chicago Chapter of the DDJ and has met considerable resistance from civil rights organizations in Chicago. These informants also advised that there has not been any indication that Thomas has attempted to purchase or obtain any weapons while in Chicago.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Chicago, Illinois
October 26, 1968

Title DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

Character RACIAL MATTERS

Reference Memorandum dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

[redacted] is [redacted]

b1
b7

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-108

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) DATE: 11/3/65

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184)(P) CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

OO: New Orleans

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 [illegible]
DATE OF REVIEW 11-3-85

Re Los Angeles airtel to the Bureau, 9/29/65, captioned as above with eight copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) enclosed; Los Angeles airtel to the Bureau, 10/25/65, captioned as above, with eight copies of an LHM enclosed.

Enclosed for the Bureau is the original and seven (7) copies of an LHM setting out information concerning captioned organization. Three (3) copies of the LHM are enclosed for New Orleans.

This LHM is being classified "CONFIDENTIAL" because information from sources utilized in the LHM could result in the identification of sources of continuing value and compromise future effectiveness thereof.

[redacted] (a)

b1

[redacted] was interviewed by SA's [redacted] and [redacted] in May, 1965 and by SA [redacted] on October 11, 1965.

b7C
b7D

(2 - Bureau (Encls. 8)(REGISTERED)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290)(Encls. 3)(REGISTERED)
1 - Los Angeles
RNT:bjs
(5)

ENCLOSURE

REC 14 157-2466-83

NOV 5 1965

EX-112

AGENCY: AGSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.
CRD, ~~RJH~~, Community Relations Service (Conner)
DATE FORW: 11/12/65
HOW FORW: RJ
BY: BPM:cl

XC: [illegible]
[illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California
November 3, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

[redacted] that he is (c) unaware of any secret army being trained by [redacted] in the Watts area of Los Angeles, California. This source advised that he knows of no association between [redacted] and the Deacons of Defense and Justice. [redacted] b1 b7C b7D

[redacted] that he knows (c) of no connection between [redacted] and the Deacons of Defense and Justice and knows of no secret army which [redacted] might be training. b1 b7C

The above sources advised that should they receive information concerning a secret army or [redacted] being associated with the Deacons of Defence and Justice that they will immediately notify the FBI. b7C

In May, 1965, [redacted] advised Special Agents of the FBI that he rejects any philosophy of violence but stated that in areas where law and order had broken down and force was used against Negroes, they should then be entitled to use force in return. b7C b7D

On October 11, 1965, [redacted] advised a Special Agent of the FBI that [redacted] said that he does not want to see any more violence of any kind.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 JPL/JLT 7-21-85
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 11-3-85

GROUP 1
~~Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification~~

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

100-1266-83

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ENCLOSURE

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DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

Sources utilized above have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

D-36 (Rev. 5-22-61)

FBI

Date: 11/2/65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS

OO: NEW ORLEANS

Enclosed are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum for the Bureau concerning captioned matter. Two copies of this letterhead memorandum furnished New Orleans for information.

Copies of this letterhead memorandum are being furnished Region I, 113th INTC Group; United States Secret Service; and the Office of the United States Attorney, all Chicago, Illinois.

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (RM)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc. 2) (Info.) (RM)
(1 - 157-) [redacted]
4 - Chicago
(1 - 157-303) (ACT)
(1 - 100-40219) [redacted]
(1 - 157-840) [redacted]

b7C

LGR:csm
(9)

REC- 13

AGENCY: Community Relations Service (Courier)

DATE: 11/5/65
BY: BPM:CO

5 NOV 4 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-11-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

Approved: _____ Special Agent in Charge

79 NOV 15 1965

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Chicago, Illinois
NOV 2, 1965

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS

On October 20, 1965, Nahaz Rogers, Vice Chairman of ACT, a civil rights organization with headquarters at Chicago, Illinois, appeared on Wesley South's "Hot Line" over Chicago radio station WVON from 11:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight. The "Hot Line" is a show on which usually a controversial person is interviewed and as a result of the interview, telephone questions are received from the listening audience which are answered by the interviewee.

Rogers' subject for the evening was the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. The following is a transcription of Rogers' remarks; the moderator, Wesley South's statements; and questions telephoned in from the listening audience; and Rogers' replies:

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 gal/k

ENCLOSURE

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

WESLEY SOUTH: "....The Deacons for Defense and Jus[illegible] send a staff member here to Chicago to open an office. Now the Deacons were formed in Jonesboro, Louisiana, approximately two years ago for the purpose of protecting themselves and other Negroes in the South. They claimed that they did not receive protection from police in most areas of the South, so they had to set up their own protection.

"Since the first chapter was formed, there are now approximately 62 such chapters throughout the South. All of them I understand, are in the Deep South. Well, as of last week, the organization [illegible] -- the Deacons, we will call it from here on out -- has established a chapter in Chicago. The Chicago Courier has a news analysis on the page I noticed tonight regarding the Deacons, and they were saying that they had talked to the police, talked to the civil rights leaders, and it was understood that they would stop [illegible] a "wait and see" attitude. Mr. O.W. WILSON did not comment but Mr. -- his press secretary -- said if anyone carries a gun around as it is said the Deacons do, and if they're not concealed, they will be arrested immediately. I understand it is supposed to be in violation of some law to have a pistol within the city. Now, what law this is, I don't know, but I [illegible] this you're allowed to have firearms.

"Well, what do you think about the Deacons for Defense and Justice?

"We have as our guest tonight a friend -- I've met him many times, especially when I was in politics and still in politics, I guess you might say -- and he has been at many of my meetings, referring to [illegible] ROGERS, and he is -- I understand, you're

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in contact with the Deacons?

NAHAZ ROGERS: "Yes, I am.

SOUTH: "First I say, welcome to "The Hot Line." This is the first time you have been here.

ROGERS: "Thank you, WESLEY, it's a pleasure to be on your show.

SOUTH: "What about the Deacons for Defense? I wonder if you could tell us why they're here. I know you can't speak for them, you're not a member of them, I understand, but you do know some -- you know their organization.

ROGERS: "Yes. I have met EARNEST THOMAS, and in fact, I have met him in several other cities. I understand from EARNEST that he is in town to set up a chapter of the Deacons for Defense in Chicago. And I really don't know any more about the organization of the Deacons for Defense and Justice than most people do who have read the newspapers. However, I have had long talks organizationally, with EARNEST THOMAS who is in town now, by an invitation, I might say. He's in town because a group of people came together and invited the Deacons for Defense and Justice into Chicago because they felt that there was a need for the type of services that this organization would render. Further than that, I can only say that it seems to be a very well organized group of men. I understand that there are many, many chapters in the South and that they have a large membership role. I would think -- and this is pure speculation on my part -- that their function would be the type of thing that any red-blooded American would feel proud to belong to an organization who's addressing itself to the problem of civil rights and addressing

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itself to the self-defense of individuals and groups of individuals.

SOUTH: "Now, you were saying that they were invited here. I wonder if you could tell us what organizations or what individuals invited them to help.

ROGERS: "I would have to confess, number one, that I don't know that the group of people who invited the Deacons for Defense and Justice have an organizational form at this time. It is my opinion that a group of men came together in Chicago who felt that a chapter of the organization would function well here and they, in turn, got in contact with the headquarters for the Deacons for Defense and Justice and the headquarters, of course, sent in EARNEST THOMAS, who is, I think, their primary organizer.

SOUTH: "Now, did they have to come to Chicago? What would they do here to protect Negroes, against what violence, that cannot be performed by local authorities or state authorities?

ROGERS: "Well, what I would say on that point is simply this: There certainly is room for improvement on the part of all the law enforcement agencies in Chicago where the Negro rights are concerned. I don't think that there could be a great deal of argument on the point of the place of Negroes in the city of Chicago, that they certainly are not accorded equal treatment under the law. And to cite some examples, if you would allow me, just a casual look at the number of police in a Negro community would give rise for anyone to suspect that this was not equal protection under the law unless you would say that a triple amount of police in a Negro neighborhood constituted more protection, which I am inclined to seriously doubt.

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I would think that it constitutes a type of oppression, not really protection. That's just a single area, but Negroes meet with an undue amount of violence -- and violence doesn't always take the form of getting one's head beat. You know there's a subtle type of violence that's practiced against the Negro in Chicago that I think needs some addressing.

SOUTH: "Do you think that the local civil rights organizations are not able to cope with this or the local courts or the local police, local law enforcement agencies, local organizations, churches -- that they are remiss in their order, I mean in their ... ?

ROGERS: "Addressing themselves to these situations?

SOUTH: "Uh huh.

ROGERS: "It is very difficult to place the blame on organizations, churches, civil rights or otherwise. But the fact that the condition continues to exist would certainly lead one to assume that whomever it was whose jurisdiction this fell under had not accomplished their aim, if it was equal justice and equal protection under the law.

SOUTH: "So they need someone, an organization like the Deacons.

ROGERS: "I would say that they need an organization and they need someone to further the cause of the Negro as far as being protected from the many and varied assaults on their person, property, etc.

SOUTH: "I understand that EARNEST THOMAS, who is the organizer for the Deacons, says that there's quite a bit of police brutality here and that they're here to help and protect Negroes. Now, does that mean there

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will be open insurrection if they found that a Negro was being, say, resisting arrest, and they happened to come around a corner and saw a particular Negro being beaten and saw that the police were trying to put him under control. Would they go into action then?

ROGERS: "Now, I have to restate my position. I am the Vice Chairman of ACT, an organization in Chicago. We have been having many meetings with Mr. THOMAS and I am in no position to speak for the Deacons for Defense and Justice. I am speaking [illegible] the position of self-defense [illegible] defensive measures. Now, you raised the question that I certainly think that the type of activity that's carried on in the South would not be applicable in the city of Chicago. I really don't feel that the Deacons for Defense and Justice would find themselves in juxtaposition to the police activities. Certainly, there are many cases documented, and cases now in the courts, where these people feel that they have been mistreated by police officers. However, I think that there is an over-playing of this as being an area for work on the part of a group such as the Deacons for Defense and Justice. Certainly I would think that any organization, the Deacons for Defense and Justice included, would address themselves to that problem. However, I don't think that coming to the aid of an individual being arrested by the law, as such, is the type of tactic that that organization would apply in a situation such as Chicago.

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DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

SOUTH: "Could you tell us in what area [illegible] operate? I mean, just what would [illegible] their program? From what [illegible] discussed, if you had discussed this with them?

ROGERS: "I would suspect that their program would deal in the area of creating a climate where that the Negro community would be on record as being against police brutality and could take forms that I would think they would, organizationally-wise, [illegible] I have no idea exactly what they would [illegible], there are a number of [illegible] represent themselves as [illegible] in area that a self-defense [illegible] certainly could work.

SOUTH: "Such as?

ROGERS: "Such as, you mentioned [illegible] the [illegible]. I think that, statistically, [illegible] proven that there are [illegible] of black citizens in the [illegible] go in proportion to their numbers, [illegible] proportion to the crimes [illegible]. Just a casual observer [illegible] California, where [illegible] of the incarcerated population [illegible] Negro. In fact, the Negro [illegible] only about a third of the [illegible] and so. It would seem that [illegible] looking at that would [illegible] type of injustice [illegible] overwhelming majority of [illegible] themselves behind bars. That's [illegible] But ...

SOUTH: "Before you go to another -- What I [illegible] understand is what would the D[illegible] doing with the police? [illegible] talking with them [illegible] insurrection? Or just what would [illegible]

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Saying 'creating a climate," would [illegible] be at O.W. WILSON, "not this is what we want, this is what we have to have,' or -- I agree that these conditions are there, I don't think anyone can disagree with that. But where would they fit in, this is what I was trying to find ...

ROGERS: "Well, I think that the group that invited the Deacons into Chicago are of the opinion that there has not been, up to this time, in Chicago a group of citizens who took a forceful enough position, and when I say "forceful enough position," -- there are many organizations, I [illegible] suspect, you would agree, [illegible] apologetic approach to conditions as they exist in Chicago, and of course it's true in other cities, that somehow the situation will change simply because of the [illegible] on the part of the structure of the enforcement agencies involved, that [illegible] the goodness of heart, you know, [illegible] will, will prevail. Well, I think at this late date, 1965, that we would have to admit, I would admit, as a person, that the goodness of the heart just is not going to prevail.

SOUTH: "Would you say that the Chicago leaders in that area -- CORE or [illegible], I know that [illegible] is an amalgamation of many [illegible] -- AL RAGY, NAACP, or -- would you [illegible] any of these?

ROGERS: "Well, I dislike very much getting into a situation where you address yourself to specific organizations. I would say this, in general, that there are organizations in the city of Chicago who claim to be civil rights organizations, and they have, of late, not been in a position where they were actually protesting anything. [illegible] comes to mind, of course, and I would

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suspect that it comes to mind to an awful lot of people. I am not going to put myself in a position of actually calling that organization's name. I think that they know, as well as I know, that many people around the city of Chicago are very disappointed that an organization of national stature who claims to be a protest organization and who claims to be out fighting for the rights and privileges of Negroes, has found themselves almost every single time on the side, either of the structure itself, or in a position of silence. And this is a terrible indictment of an organization that has the strength that this particular organization has. As I say, I think that we should do ourselves a great injustice if we would go into actual name-calling, but there are other organizations in the city who profess to be civil rights organizations and they function as an arm of the structure. Now, you mentioned some names. You mentioned Mr. RAWY, who happens to be a friend of mine, and who I feel is actually in the field doing a great and good job. He certainly is doing what protest organizations ought to do, that is, demonstrating so that it calls attention to injustices, and of course, this has been done. However, I think that we are in a stage of the civil rights movement where that one has to go a little further than the demonstrations. And when I say this, I mean, don't jump to the conclusion that I'm talking about armed insurrection. You know, there seems to be a great play on words today, in that anyone who no longer agrees with turning the other cheek and this sort of thing, is talking about armed insurrection. No. I'm talking about a firm position within the framework of the struggle for human dignity. A more militant

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approach, one where that you really take the American concept, as expressed by some of the founding fathers, who adhered to the principle, "Peace if possible, but justice at any cost." I think that this is the line that the Deacons would take.

SOUTH: "This is very well stated, but I don't -- uh -- maybe I'm a person who likes specifics and maybe you can't be specific -- I mean it's impossible to be specific on -- what do you mean when you say "within the framework"? What would an organization do, getting back to the Deacons? Just what would -- how would they fit into this?

ROGERS: "Certainly, speaking as Vice-Chairman of ACT, and speaking for our position, I would hope that the Deacons would have a purpose within the framework of our organizational structure. There are cases where that when people go out to demonstrate, that hecklers and people, you know, who are not a part of the demonstration, come in and disrupt things and on occasion the police seem to be rather reluctant or, I would certainly think, I would be using the wrong term to say that they were incapable of containing these over-zealous antis who choose to disrupt a peaceful civil rights demonstration. I think that a strong-armed organization, and when I say "strong-armed," I'm not talking about armed with guns or that type of thing, I'm talking about just a steadfast, strong organization who would be on the scene and could put an end to this type of harassment, on the part of the regular civil rights movement.

SOUTH: "Now, that's what -- in other words, they would be there, say they were having a demonstration at someone's home and there

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are people who live in this particular area who don't want this particular demonstration. They'll come out and they'll throw eggs or throw water on them. Do I understand you correctly to say that the Deacons, you would hope, would be there to stop this type of thing?

ROGERS: "I would think that they would serve the same purpose that they served in many instances in the South. Uh, in Bogalusa, if you recall, and this is recorded in the papers, that they did not, in fact, participate in picket lines. They were there to mingle with the crowd that gathered, some of whom were a part, who were sympathetic toward the demonstration, and some who were not, and they would, in effect, act as a buffer between those people who were anti-demonstration and who were prepared to take some physical action against it, and just their presence there, in many cases, was able to deter overzealous people who felt that they ought to interfere with the peaceful demonstration. And I would suspect that they could serve the same purpose here.

SOUTH: "Now, let's say that those who were against such a demonstration, they were also determined that they were going to be there and they were going to do what they wanted to do and they were going to stand behind their friends and make certain that they could exercise their rights as they see them, and this could wind up in a fist fight or even worse. Is this right or wrong?

ROGERS: "I cannot disagree with your speculation that the possibility of fist fights might come out of something like this. I don't think that there's any way of prior determining anything of this nature. But I would think that just the mere act of

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having some Deacons for Defense and [illegible] in a crowd of people who felt that they wanted to take law into their own hands, would be a deterrent to any activity of that nature.

SOUTH: "Police could have sort of a handful, too, couldn't they?

ROGERS: "Well, police have their hands full in most situations that involve protests and what-have-you.

SOUTH: "And this might make a little bit more such a -- would I be using correct English by saying they would be "fuller"?

ROGERS: "Well, I don't know whether there is such a word, it is possible.

SOUTH: "Ladies and gentlemen, this is "The Hot Line," WESLEY SOUTH is your host. Our guest tonight is NAHAZ ROGERS, and he is the Vice-Chairman of ACT. We're speaking about the Deacons for Defense and Justice.

"If you have a comment or question, give us a call, we'll be here until midnight. Our telephone number -- 847-[illegible].

"(Commercial)

SOUTH: "... This is the "Hot Line."

Caller: (Female) "Hello.

SOUTH: "May we have your question or your comment, please.

Caller: "Mr. SOUTH? Mr. THOMAS was interviewed on another program, on another radio station, and he said that he was invited to come up here and the reason why he was invited was

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because that the Ku Klux Klan was [illegible] chapters, starting in Indiana, and his organization was formed primarily to act as a buffer against the Ku Klux Klan in the South because it was proved in Louisiana that a lot of Klansmen were part of the law officials, so therefore, naturally, they were not doing their jobs and that is the reason why they formed the Deacons -- because of this breakdown, that if the Klan was the law, naturally the law wasn't gonna protect the Negro. So, in Louisiana it is legal to carry arms and that is why they are able to carry guns and the only reason that he is coming up here, as made this perfectly clear, was only to act as a counter-balance against the Ku Klux Klan and for no other reason.

SOUTH: "We hope to have him on our program in a few days.

CALLER: "Well, it would be nice, but it would also be nice to make it clear -- I was listening to Mr. ROGERS, and if you have non-violent demonstrations, the reason why they should stay non-violent is because a person does not expect anyone in the demonstration to have a weapon, but if you have the Deacons in there and the supposition is that they will have a weapon, and then naturally, anyone coming to counter the demonstration will also have a weapon. So then you are only asking for violence.

SOUTH: "Thanks for calling.

"Do you have a point on that, [illegible]?

ROGERS: "Yes. In talking to Mr. THOMAS, [illegible] made this as a public statement at [illegible] Saturday night that the organization that would be set up in Chicago would not, in fact, be armed in the manner that [illegible] think of the Deacons being armed in

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Louisiana. So I would think that anybody who gets the idea that the Deacons will be wanderingaround in Chicago armed haven't listened to Mr. THOMAS, himself.

CALLER: "Well, then, Mr. ROGERS, as you've just said, if they were part of an organization and part of a demonstration, what do you think the good would be? By them just being there? You'd have other people there, I mean what would differentiate them from anybody else, why would they be of any use particularly?

ROGERS: "Well, I would suspect that from just listening to you, I didn't hear your name when you first started, that you have observed demonstrations in Chicago, I have observed them here and in other Northern cities -- that there are occasional incidents of violence that does not stem from the police, it just stems from, as I said earlier, overzealous spectators. And I think that there is an area there that could be addressed by a group such as the Deacons, and I have no authority to speak for the Deacons, to say that this is an area that they intend to work. I'm just saying that this is an area that needs work.

CALLER: "Well, I don't doubt that it needs work, but I don't know if it needs to be worked by the Deacons! I think it needs a lot, I think that a lot can be performed by the Negroes themselves if they would write more letters. I mean most Negroes are not writing enough letters. They can do a lot to stop a lot of things if they'd just write more letters to these people. In other words, no one knows you object to anything, well, they just continue to do it! I mean, they can write letters, I mean

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for every man that's stopped [illegible]
puts his hand in his pock[illegible]
letter, write a letter! [illegible] if [illegible]
that doesn't work, well [illegible] somebody [illegible]
up there, get another f[illegible], but
how many letters are [illegible]
the South Side?

ROGERS: "Not enough, I'm sure.

CALLER: "I mean, we all just holler but [illegible]
writing a letter?

SOUTH: "Thank you very much for [illegible]

CALLER: "Surely. 'Bye.

SOUTH: "Good night.

WESLEY SOUTH here.

CALLER: "Hello, NAME, this is [illegible]
I'm very pleased to [illegible]
I'm a somewhat regular [illegible]
[illegible]" and, of course, a [illegible]
SOUTH and yours and LARR[illegible].

[illegible] 's [illegible]
DEACONS mention[illegible]
[illegible]. The D[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible] being burned down [illegible]
[illegible] children or [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] and say, well, [illegible]
[illegible], will someone [illegible]
home, and there are [illegible]
the South and in the North, [illegible]
someone needs someone else [illegible]
besides the white law [illegible]
and the Deacons [illegible]

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call on me if you need me, we are here and therefore they can somewhat combat the white sheet fellows from coming to do some harm to them. And they do this -- they watch the registrars and they keep tabs on the people who come to vote and the people then can say, well, we have the Deacons then to call on and I think this is a good point. And he made this point, where he at least has someone else besides the white law agencies to call on to help him protect his home, his family.

SOUTH: "Are you referring to Chicago or other ...

LANDRUM: "I'm referring mainly to the South. Of course, they do this in the South and this is their job, where people are in fear of danger, they have someone to turn to besides the white people who [illegible] almost the entire law enforcement body down there.

SOUTH: "How would that apply here in Chicago?

LANDRUM: "Well, we might reach that situation here in Chicago. I don't know exactly that it does, but this certainly is an effort of the ... They might go to bat for someone in a case of police brutality. They might help there, and of course, he pointed this out ...

SOUTH: "How do you mean, "help"?

LANDRUM: "Well, engage in some kind of protest, they could go to the captain of the police station and point out these grievances of people and act in this way, or if a person needs protection, and we don't always have enough -- I wish we did, but if a person didn't have enough, he could call on [illegible] and say, well, look, I'm in fear of [illegible]

such, and he would at least have no other protection other than the white power structure and the police agencies.

SOUTH: "All right, thank you very much for calling. Good night.

"This is "The Hot Line," ladies and gentlemen, WESLEY SOUTH your host. Our guest tonight, NAHAZ ROGERS, our telephone number 847-2602.

"(Commercial)

CALLER: (female) "...Mr. SOUTH?

SOUTH: "Yes.

CALLER: "And your guest sounds most interesting. I would be delighted if you have the [illegible] on, the representative of the [illegible]...

SOUTH: EARNEST THOMAS, yes.

CALLER "And I feel that acting and living with the ordinary citizens are in the [illegible] [illegible] might be helpful [illegible] information about the cops [illegible] in our areas and in the South [illegible] protect the Negro [illegible] [illegible], the Negroes [illegible] the selected police officer [illegible] overcrowded conditions brought into our communities, [illegible] women have been murdered and [illegible] LEWIS, and even the Negro dail[illegible] now we have a daily newspaper [illegible] sometime I think they really [illegible] three days after the other pr[illegible] to give certain news, they are [illegible] they are really afraid to [illegible] sound dignified to us [illegible]

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DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

SOUTH: "You think that the Deacons would [illegible] this?

CALLER: "I think they could help the policeman because we're so overcrowded here ...

SOUTH: "The police -- you know they have -- the candidates can get applications, I understand, up until, oh, another week, and they are having Civil Service examination [illegible] September second or third. Do you think they should join the police department?

CALLER: "No, sir. I read that there's [illegible] that there are not very many people applying because the policemen are not getting their raises.

SOUTH: "One question I'd like to ask.

"[illegible] you think, if [illegible] so many groups [illegible] that they become [illegible] force? How long do you think [illegible] -- I'll ask you the same thing [illegible] -- before law and order -- do you [illegible] would have law and order [illegible] law?

CALLER: "Well, as far as [illegible] we have [illegible] people -how soon apply [illegible] who are not in [illegible] ...

SOUTH: "[illegible], would they be helpful [illegible]

CALLER: "And if they could hear [illegible] and hear about what [illegible] South [illegible] and I know for certain [illegible] even on [illegible]

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go freely for social purposes in o areas. Well, you know that's not right, and I think that these people can really help the police without a warrant.

SOUTH: "Okay. Thank you for calling.

CALLER: "Thank you so very much.

SOUTH: "Would you comment on the question I asked you, NAHAZ?

ROBERS: "Well, number one, I would [illegible] appears to me that other [illegible] defensive organizations. [illegible] organized, primarily for th[illegible] but it is obvious that the[illegible] organizations in existence [illegible] I would just like to say -- [illegible] questions ago, someone raised th[illegible] about areas of work for the [illegible] Defense and, as I s[illegible] the Deacons for Defense, [illegible] cases where Negroes move in [illegible] and someone burns their h[illegible] throws bricks through th[illegible] or even invades their h[illegible] here's an area that's [illegible] of it's our pri[illegible] people might [illegible] help to see that [illegible] law [illegible], and we [illegible] occasions the poli[illegible] actually deter this typ[illegible]

SOUTH: "This is the 'Hot Line.'

CALLER (male): "WESLEY? Mr. MCKA[illegible].

SOUTH: "Haven't heard from you in [illegible]

CALLER: "Yeah, I been pretty busy.

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SOUTH: "I understand you have your own [illegible] now?

CALLER: "Yes, I do, and it's broadcast from the Edgewater Beach Hotel, WES. Like to have you as a guest sometime.

SOUTH: "Be glad to.

CALLER: "I have been listening but I have been pretty busy and I have been talking to a lot of people in the last two or three months, doing a lot of things, quite frankly. I have been in touch with th[illegible] I might say, -- probably not [illegible] -- how much time do we have left?

SOUTH: "Oh, minute or so.

CALLER: "Minute or so. That's unfortunate [illegible] what I wanted to say could take more than a minute.

SOUTH: "Well, go right ahead.

CALLER: "I wanted to say this, th[illegible] I think that the pulse of [illegible] is being misread by many [illegible] unfortunate [illegible] 400 years of violence [illegible] the world in a state of [illegible] I heard a statement today, [illegible] Senator YOUNG, is it, th[illegible] CIA has committed atrocities [illegible] and he just came and [illegible] Viet Cong to inflame opi[illegible] Mr. (Crosby ??) and his [illegible] stimulating anti-American [illegible] the Negro Secret Service [illegible] abroad and kills yellow communists [illegible] doesn't kill the white ones, and [illegible] saying this as any ... [illegible] that exists, you k[illegible] that this exists, and this [illegible] hatred against the [illegible] prepare the American people [illegible]

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for war and to murder millions of Asians with their nuclear weapons, and that we even debate whether or not Negroes need self-defense who are being murdered psychologically, physiologically, economically, sociologically, and every way possible. At 8.8 years left of life expectancy, just multiplying that by 20 million gives you about 1,760,000,000 years of life every time a generation passes out of existence among our nation. So what are we debating, whether we want to live or die, you know? Whatever means are necessary for us to live and for our youth to flower into the full fruition of their manhood and womanhood, I don't give a darn whether they're Deacons, whether it's guns, whether it's bombs, whether it's marches, whether it's demonstrations, whether it's books, whether it's bricks or stones or sticks. The people are the parasites, the white power structure. We are the hosts, they feed off of us, they suck our blood, they grow fat, we grow thin, we die, they live. Now we have a choice, it's very simple. I'm not advocating anything except survival and decency and human dignity for my people and for all people, whatever it takes, if we are men or if we are women. If we believe in the principles of Christianity, the principles of Judaism, the principles of Brahmanism, or Muslimism, any kind of religious doctrine, the principles of purely decent humanity, of manners, of survival of human life on this planet we will take whatever steps are necessary to be sure then. And we are the moral salvation, the black people of the world the non-Caucasians are the moral salvation, the only possible salvation of this planet. And if we don't take whatever steps are necessary to stop this frenzied, headlong dash toward hell, and destruction of this earth, we'll wish we were never born.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

SOUTH: "Thanks for calling (Russ').

CALLER: "Thank you.

SOUTH: "Talk to you later. Good night.

"This is "The Hot Line."

CALLER (male): "Yes, I would like to agree with the last caller, but at the same time I would like to say that the Constitution of the United States and the laws of Illinois do give every individual, black or white, the right to protect himself and his property. There is no denying the fact that the Negroes in the city of Chicago, as well as in other places, are being denied their rights to protect themselves. At least, their rights are being abused. But I think that in all fairness, that we have to admit that, number one, the laws are on the books, the police are there for our protection, the Negroes have a right to join the police force, Negroes are in the courts, we have Negro lawyers, that can practice in the courts, I mean we have a lot of things going for us here in the state of Illinois. I am one of the first ones to talk about some of the things that we don't have in the city of Chicago that we should have. But we have a lot of things going for us in the state of Illinois in general and in the city of Chicago, in particular, for our own protection. But at the same time, nobody is going to force protection upon us and the only thing that the Deacons could possibly do would be in the sense ... I heard Mr. THOMAS on the other program the other night also. I think he handled himself very well on that program for the audience that he had, which was predominantly white, but by the same token, I don't think

that that type organization is needed in Chicago. I hope that ACT and DICK GREGORY, who is my idol, I hope that they are not fostering that type of organization here in the city of Chicago. We don't need that type of organization in Chicago. We do need vigilantes, it's true enough, but we need vigilantes number one, to wake people up, our people, and get them interested in how to use their legal rights to protect themselves with what they have on the books. We don't have people in the city of Chicago who even take advantage of things that are not even denied them. I mean, as far as homes being burned, I work for a real estate office, I know about some of these things. But I have not as yet read where one Negro moved in any neighborhood has actually, in force, tried to protect himself against his home being burned. And he has that right in the state of Illinois, he has it under the Constitution of the United States. He's not using it. We have the right to vote for whomever we please, to even select our legislators. But in very, very few instances in the state of Illinois, and particularly in the City of Chicago, the Negroes select -- they help elect -- but they don't select anything. And the thing is, we need vigilantes here, as I say, but the vigilantes that we need are the type that can wake the Negro people of the city of Chicago up as to what their rights are now, how to take advantage of them. Simple little thing like calling the Internal Investigating Division when you feel that you're being abused, and I can personally say I have never been physically abused by any policeman, but I was verbally abused by a policeman and I can personally state that the Internal Investigation did make an investigation of it. And, uh, people are so afraid, I mean,

but those things go against the record of any particular policeman, and nobody in their sensible mind, and I'm sure Superintendent WILSON does not want the type of man on the police force that's going to create havoc on the force. Now, but if the people don't say anything, but mumble to themselves, as I say, talk of trials for your doggone sins, I mean, well, nothing is going to happen.

SOUTH: "Thank you for calling.

"(Commercial)

SOUTH: "This is the "Hot Line."

CALLER (male): "Mr. SOUTH?

SOUTH: "How are you, Mr. MUNFORD?

CALLER: "Fine, and you, sir?

SOUTH: "Fine. Haven't heard from you for a few days.

CALLER: "Well, I have been listening to you, you know, 'cause this is my heart. First of all, I would say this, that I belong to, as you well know, the non-violent organization, but our leaders tell us this, they're training us this. And they say that we are glad the Deacons exist. I know that some are comparing them to the Ku Klux Klan, but then they may ask this question - how many lynchings have they committed, how many homes have they burned, how many churches? The Deacons, thank God, are not night riders. Anyone compare them like with the Klan is simply 'dacion (ph). Now, it's the same way, the Deacons. See, level-headed men that is leading us and I mean, God knows, if there is anything in prayer, I'm praying for it. Mr. SIMS said, one of the

Deacons said this, "Leave your pistols, your knives, your hammers at home. Leave the protecting to us, that's our job, and to all men who is so like-minded, I think they would agree with me when I say this, that all men oughta be free but only those who are worthy of it. Who are valiant enough to win it -- to want it, to desire it, is not enough. One must pursue and capture it, knowing full well that freedom is not a gift, it's a victory. And let us all work for victory. Thank you, sir.

SOUTH: "Thanks for calling.

"This is the "Hot Line."

CALLER (male): "Good evening, Mr. WESLEY SOUTH. Can I make ...

SOUTH: "Well! Haven't heard from you in a long time, Mr. ...

CALLER: "Well, you barred me off of you!

SOUTH: "I haven't barred anybody off. Go right ahead, NICK.

CALLER: "First, I'd say, speaking about Negroes protecting themselves. Someone said have a lot of protection here. I haven't found it so much and I think you're gonna agree with me. I think, for the speaker tonight, I think the best way the Negroes can get protection in Chicago or anywhere else, and that is, number one, (word or two unintelligible) these organizations. The Negroes must get in these organizations and after getting in there he must support them. That is the number one. Now, of course, I feel this at this age of my life. I don't think anybody doing anything smart, throwing rocks in my car like I seen them throwing them in Negroes'. Now I don't know

why this is so healthy when I am (unintelligible) ... I have everything that the city acquires me to have on my car. Now, God help anybody throwing a rock in my car. I'm gonna call the police after I call the undertaker. Because I think if a man don't stand up and protect his home and his family, he's less than a man, that's the number one thing the majority of us Negroes don't do. We get in an organization we don't even support it. Our alderman, -- and the alderman I'm talking about is about the only one we have, and its the 17th Ward alderman -- he made a statement here this summer that they ain't but about five per cent of us support these organizations. So, NAHAB, I think that one thing we got to do. When the more of these people support the organizations, I think the organizations will be in more of a situation to fight them. Thank you, Mr. SOUTH.

SOUTH: "You've never been barred from the "Hot Line," Mr. LAWS (ph).

"Thanks for calling, hope to hear your voice again.

CALLER: "Okay.

SOUTH: "This is the "Hot Line."

CALLER (male): "I would like to speak to Mr. ROGERS.

SOUTH: "Here on the line.

CALLER: "I would like to know if his group is a non-violent or violent group?

ROGERS: "Number one, I wonder how people get hung up in those type of thoughts, "non-violent" or "violent." The ACT organization is not a non-violent. That does not, in itself, make it a violent group. You see, violence is one thing -- ACT believes in self-defense,

that every man, to be a man, has to have, number one, the feeling for protecting himself, his family and his possessions. Now, violence is something that has been constantly perpetrated upon the black man in this country and I know of no organized black organization that goes out to perpetrate violence against anyone. But I constantly hear people asking whether an organization is violent or non-violent. You know, we are not non-violent, if by non-violent you mean will we go out and offer our members up as sacrificial lambs to allow someone to beat their heads. No, we will not do that. On the other hand, we are not going out to inflict any violence on anyone else. But we teach and preach and hope and pray that every single ACD member will at all times conduct himself like a God-fearing man, and that is, that he will protect himself, he will protect his family, he will protect his property. This is not violence. This is how to deter violence.

LOWEN: "Yes, sir, does that answer your question, sir?

WILLER: "Well, I wonder if he, do he think getting behind the voter registration, voters, that maybe this thing will be deterrent, if any person that runs for any elective office, if this group would support anybody that run for elective office in the city of Chicago?

ROGERS: "Yes, we advocate -- this is part of our platform, and program, is that the black community must control the black community and this would mean in every sphere of operation, the political, the economic, black people must control the economics of their community, they must certainly control the political aspects, and they also must control the social aspects of their own community. This is something that to

date in most cities of the United States has never been. The city is completely controlled and exploited by outside forces and this is what ACT stands against. We stand for complete control of the Negro community by Negroes, and we don't refer to black people in America as "Negroes" -- we refer to them as Afro-Americans, Africans, or black people, -- and that we feel that it is necessary that power come to the black community in order that they may develop those things that are necessary for them to function within the total society as equals.

SOUTH: "Thank you for calling, sir.

CALLER: "Thank you.

SOUTH: "Good night.

"This is the "Hot Line".

CALLER (female): "Hello?

SOUTH: "May we have your question or your comment?

CALLER: "Mr. SOUTH, I have a comment and a slight question too. I think that this organization that they are performing now, I think that this would be a very good thing to happen in our different neighborhoods, not only do we need this for demonstration and we need it for violence or whatever they are talking about. As far as the police department, I have no kick against the police department as far as me. But I think it's a whole lot of things, because have you thought about, too, there's a many a people, and I know I'm a woman alone, and I know there's a many a people, even sick in bed, and you can call for help, you can even call for the police department. Sometimes you can't even get one and so you know it would be a nice thing to even have people that you could even call to see that you go into a hospital, because you can

[illegible] of these hospitals, you [illegible] all kinds of insurance, they are [illegible] they don't want to do anything for you. You can't even go to the counter, you have to stay on the outside out there. I have gone out and stayed as long as 12 or 15 hours and I would be sick and couldn't get waited on. And I think that if they could even get this organization built up that they can protect the Negroes. I think that this would be a great thing, and [illegible] the police department, because I think Chicago has a nice police department, I have no kick against them...

[illegible]: "And what was your question?

[illegible]: "And then the question that I wanted to ask, would these people be [illegible] these things -- not just [illegible] pick -- are these people trained to do this work?

[illegible]: "The units that function in [illegible] they are in the process at the moment of setting up a chapter in Chicago, but all of the chapters in the South go through [illegible] training program [illegible] every Deacon can [illegible] like, these are things that I learned from talking to Mr. Brown. As [illegible] [illegible] it, or at least [illegible] him [illegible], and I would suspect that he would be able to answer these questions in much more detail.

[illegible]: "Thank you, sir.

[illegible]: "Thank you for calling.

"(Commercial).

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Caller "Did I understand you to say at the beginning of the program that you would have some representative from this organization within the next few days?

South "Yes, sir.

Caller "All right, now. Well my question is, do you think that the Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan is refusing to expose anything connected with his organization?

South "I haven't the slightest idea.

Caller "Well I just saying that since he refused..... (unintelligible)

South "Well I ask him when he comes on.

Caller "I wish you could ask him that.

South "I really couldn't say what this man would do. I've never even met him.

****

South "Hello, Hot Line.

Caller "Hello, Mr. South. I'd like to comment on your program tonight.

South "Yes, sir.

Caller "I've heard a lot of what the people are saying and I disagree with just about every call you've had, except one and I thought he was very articulate in stating his composition and I cannot see where Chicago needs (unintelligible) unless you are going to work in areas (unintelligible) as far as voting, as far as volunteering for youth organizations to help (unintelligible), values of education and a few other things of that nature. Other than that, I don't see where we need them because you cannot have two police departments in one city. And by that not being whether its against the law in this state or in the city, I do not see how they can protect any civil rights workers who are demonstrating

or anything else, in all white areas.

South "Did you want to comment on that.

Rogers "Yes. I think it deserves comment. Number one, we here at the program do not know as yet exactly what areas the Deacons have decided to work in in Chicago. But on the other hand, I think that there are too many organizations and individuals throughout the community who are actually training Negroes into submission. Now I think one of the jobs that I would like to see the Deacons do is to re-instill manhood in black men. That is to re-instill the idea that men must of right and ought to protect themselves, their property and their family. And this is obviously lacking in many Negroes over 21 years of age and I don't thing you can be a man unless you possess the qualities that go along with being a man and that is to be willing to protect your family and your home and your children.

Caller "I don't thing you'll find any Negro man, unless there are very few, who are not willing to protect their rights and their family and their home and what not. And a new organization coming up, I agree with you a lot of organizations in Chicago who are working for Negroes rights, but to me they are all going and assuming different directions until very few are making much headway. We are making headway, and I don't say that Chicago has the best police force in the nation but it's a big organization and any big organization that you find you're going to find a few goofs. These men are human. They've got their prejudice too. They're police, but they've still got their prejudice. I don't think that among the police that Chicago has that it's running rampant through the whole force. And to me, if you bring in another group and something should start where there is a peaceful demonstration and then there's hecklers like there was at Mayor Daley's house, and the Deacons are there to protect those peaceful demonstrators, we would have a riot. And in a riot, it's hard to tell who's right and who's wrong. Especially when you have two groups at odds with each other. They're both violent.

It's much easier to tell if you have a non-violent group here and a violent group here. It's easy to spot those who were committed to violence before than if you have two violent groups. And this police force to me isn't like the fatal police force in the South. If feel very wholeheartedly that the Deacons do need to have an organization in the South because there is a great lack of law and order there. And I am not seeing any breakdown of law and order here. This is what I'm wondering about.

Rogers "I want to comment. Number one, I don't understand that everytime the Deacon's name is brought up, it's brought up in the framework of violence. And that is in (unintelligible) to the police force. I don't think anything has ever been suggested that the Deacons of defense and justice have any real relationship to being in opposition to the police force. But what I am saying is this is a position organizationally that [illegible] as being a part of ACT, an organization who is out for justice and out for the equality of black people in Chicago and in America [illegible] are a national organization. But I think that we overlook too many things when we say that we don't need the help of every organization that has something to offer in the area of creating a climate of equality on the part of all [illegible] and one of those qualities is that people act and react like men to any given situation. I don't want to take up a lot of time, but certainly Chicago offers many areas where th[illegible] is remiss in the treatment of Negroes. [illegible] that we have made a lot of headway is wrong. The school system is worse today in 1965 then it was in 1955. And getting more segregated every year. So we are not making the kind of progress [illegible] that we are making progress in the newspapers, but in fact in many cases we're going backward and there must be a reason. One of these reasons may be that the organizations are not taking a [illegible] enough stand.

Caller "I agree with you. But don't you think you could take a much more militant attitude if we would teach people how to vote, if we would teach our kids, not our kids individually, but say our kids as a race, and try teaching them the value of property and not destruction of property?

Rogers "We have to first give them some property to (unintelligible).

Caller "No, not necessarily.

Rogers "Well, let me make that point. When most of the property that the Negroes that you're taking about live in are owned by absentee slum landlords, who do not care anything about the people who live there to ask these people to be constantly looking out for this man's interest so that he can live out of the city and take his kids to the better schools and ask these people to be peaceably and be nice while they live in abject poverty, I think is asking too much. I do not ask Negroes to be that way.

Caller "How about those Negro landlords who live in the area with the absentee landlords who own property and try to keep it up. And a few Negro absentee landlords although they live away still try to keep their property up. What are they to do with the destruction of these other kids from these absentee landlords that you're talking about?

Smith "Well, we've just run out of time. Thank you for calling. I want to thank you very much Nahum Rogers for being our guest tonight and I hope you might ask Mr. Ernest Thomas and see if you could get him on, say by the end of the week or the first of next week.

Rogers "I will certainly extend the invitation to him, Wesley, and thanks a lot for inviting me.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

South "You know, being the host here I can always have the last word and I want to say this. Regarding what you think about Negro men not standing up, I don't think there's a man in Chicago Negro white or otherwise where you could go in his house where he would not stand up. Do you agree or disagree?

Rogers "I know of cases where.....

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

CONFIDENTIAL

DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 11/3/65

FROM: SAC, BOSTON (157-387) RVC

SUBJECT: FRIENDS OF THE DEACONS, aka
Deacons for Defense and Justice,
Deacons
RM

Re Boston letter to Director dated 10/8/65 and Bureau letter to Boston dated 10/11/65 captioned "'Rebellion' Information Concerning (IS)", which advised that New Orleans was Office of Origin on matter concerning the Deacons, and that that office should be furnished all pertinent information concerning same.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of a LHM, one of which is meant for a Bureau file on "Rebellion", Information Concerning, which is mentioned in the enclosed LHM.

ENCLOSURE

2-Bureau (Encs. 9)
2-New York (Encs. 2)
(1 - 100-[redacted])
(1 - 100-[redacted])
3-New Orleans (Encs. 7)
15-Boston (157-387)
(1 - Secret Service, Boston)
(1 - 108th INTC Group, Boston)
(1 - 100-33026) ([redacted])
(1 - 157-372) ("Rebellion")
(1 - 105-11846) ([redacted])
(1 - 105-11847) ([redacted])
(1 - 105-11724) ([redacted])
(100-new) ([redacted])
(100-new) ([redacted])
(100-new) ([redacted])
(1 - 100-36576) ([redacted])
(1 - 157-117) (Boston Action Group)
(100-new) ([redacted])
(100-dead) ("Fathers for Defense")

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM [illegible]
DATE OF REVIEW [illegible]

REC-41 57-466-25

EX-101

b7C

12 NOV 8 1965

JFN:mm
(22)

INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

CONFIDENTIAL

BS 157-387

CONFIDENTIAL

Enclosed for New Orleans are three copies of the LHM and two Zerox copies each of LHMs, one dated 9/30/65 captioned "Publication 'Rebellion', Information Concerning" and the other dated 10/6/65 captioned "Friends of the Deacons, aka Deacons for Defense and Justice, Deacons, Racial Matters."

Two copies of the LHM are being furnished New York due to their interest in [redacted] and [redacted] b7

[redacted] b

(c)

The LHM is being classified confidential since it contains information furnished by the above mentioned sources which could logically result in identification of sources of continuing value, jeopardize their future activity and be detrimental to the defense interest of the United States.

[redacted] was interviewed on 10/13/65 with SAC authority by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] b7C b7D

In view of the fact that membership in the "Deacons" in Boston is limited to the four persons who organized it, the fact that it has been unable to expand beyond this point and that it's activities have been limited to its original organizing public meeting, this case is being referred upon completion to New Orleans subject to being reopened if activities warrant. The activities of individual members will be followed in individual case files.

New Orleans and the Bureau will be kept advised of any pertinent activity with respect to the Deacons.

CONFIDENTIAL

FD-529 (10-20-78)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

7 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☑ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1), (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consulation to the following government agency(ies); _____ _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

_____

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

X

FRIENDS OF THE DEACONS, ALSO KNOWN AS DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, DEACONS. RACIAL MATTERS

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted]

The September 29, 1965 issue of "Rebellion", on Page 3, carried an article captioned "Deacons Hold Rally". This described the rally held at the Roxbury Branch of the YMCA a little over a month ago sponsored by the Boston Friends of the Deacons for Defense. It claimed the meeting was fruitful and encouraging and attended by 150 or more persons. The roster of speakers included Roland Bedford of the Boston Friends of the Deacons; Floyd Hardwick of "Rebellion" and Bill McAdoo and David Douglas, both of the Harlem Defense Counsel of New York City.

The central theme of the discussion was the growing need of the masses of black people to be made fully aware of the total insecurity of their portion in the framework of American society.

This issue of "Rebellion" states that the paper is a private publication published in the interest of the nonwhite communities of Boston, Massachusetts. Its masthead states,

X

CONFIDENTIAL

FRIENDS OF THE DEACONS, ALSO KNOWN AS DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, DEACONS. RACIAL MATTERS

"Better to fight on your feet than to live on your knees".

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

APPENDIX

NATION OF ISLAM

In January, 1957, a source advised Elijah Muhammad has described his organization on a nationwide basis as the "Nation of Islam" and "Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

On May 7, 1965, a second source advised Elijah Muhammad is the national leader of the Nation of Islam (NOI); Muhammad's Temple of Islam Number 2, 5335 South Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, is the national headquarters of the NOI; and in mid-1960 Muhammad and other NOI officials, when referring to Muhammad's organization on a nationwide basis, commenced using either "Mosque" or "Temple" when mentioning one of "Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

The NOI is an all-Negro organization which was originally organized in 1930 in Detroit, Michigan. Muhammad claims to have been selected by Allah, the Supreme Being, to lead the so-called Negro race out of slavery in the wilderness of North America by establishing an independent black nation in the United States. Members following Muhammad's teachings and his interpretation of the "Koran" believe there is no such thing as a Negro; the so-called Negroes are slaves of the white race, referred to as "white devils," in the United States; and the white race, because of its exploitation of the so-called Negroes, must and will be destroyed in the approaching "War of Armageddon."

In the past, officials and members of the NOI, including Muhammad, have refused to register under the provisions of the Selective Service Acts and have declared that members owe no allegiance to the United States.

On May 5, 1958, the first source advised Muhammad had, upon advice of legal counsel, tempered his personal statements and instructions to his ministers concerning the principles of his organization in order to avoid possible prosecution by the United States Government; however, he did not indicate any fundamental changes in the teachings of his organization.

CONFIDENTIAL

2.

APPENDIX

NATION OF ISLAM

On May 3, 1965, a third source advised Muhammad had, early in July, 1958, decided to de-emphasize the religious aspects of the teachings of Islam and to stress the economic benefits to be derived by those Negroes who joined the NOI. This policy change, according to Muhammad, would help him acquire additional followers and create more interest in his programs.

APPENDIX

STUDENT COMMITTEE FOR TRAVEL TO CUBA

"The Columbia Owl," weekly student newspaper of Columbia University, New York City, December 12, 1962, issue, page one, contained an article entitled "Students to Visit Cuba During Holidays." This article stated in part that the Ad Hoc Student Committee for Travel to Cuba was formed October 14, 1962, by a group of students from New York City universities, the University of Wisconsin, Oberlin College and the University of North Carolina, who stated that as students they would like a chance to see and evaluate the situation in Cuba for themselves and had received an offer of transportation and two weeks' stay in Cuba from the Federation of University Students in Havana, as guests of the Federation. The Committee accepted the offer and applied to the State Department of the United States for passport validation which was refused; however, over fifty students planned to defy the State Department ban and go to Cuba.

A source advised on December 6, 1962, it was learned the Ad Hoc Student Committee for Travel to Cuba had recently been reformed by the Progressive Labor Group.

A second source advised on September 13, 1963, that during the summer of 1963, fifty-nine individuals traveled to Cuba: the leaders of the group were members of the Progressive Labor Movement; and the trip was planned and organized by Progressive Labor Movement members.

A third source advised on October 9, 1963, the Student Committee for Travel to Cuba was utilizing Post Office Box 2178, New York, New York, as its mailing address.

On March 12, 1965, [redacted] advised as follows: b7c b7

The Student Committee for Travel to Cuba (SCTC) was formerly known as the Ad Hoc Student Committee for Travel to Cuba and the Permanent Student Committee for Travel to Cuba.

[redacted] was a leader and participant of the 1963 trip to Cuba and an organizer of the 1964 trip to Cuba and both trips were sponsored by the SCTC.

APPENDIX

2.

STUDENT COMMITTEE FOR TRAVEL TO CUBA

By the Spring of 1964, the Executive Committee of the SCTC was considered to be members of the Progressive Labor Movement.

No trip to Cuba or China was being planned by the SCTC for 1965.

APPENDIX

PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY (PLP)
PROGRESSIVE LABOR MOVEMENT (PLM)

A source advised on April 20, 1965, that the PLP, formerly known as the PLM, held its first national convention April 15-18, 1965, at New York City, to organize the PLM into a PLP. The PLP will have as its ultimate objective the establishment of a militant working class movement based on Marxism-Leninism.

"The New York Times," City Edition, Tuesday, April 20, 1965, page 27, reported that a new party of "revolutionary socialis was formally founded on April 18, 1965, under the name of the PLP. The PLP was described as an outgrowth of the PLM. Its officers were identified as Milton Rosen, New York, President, and William Epton of New York and Mort Scheer of San Francisco, Vice Presidents. A 20-member National Committee was elected to direct the party until the next convention.

According to the article, "The Progressive Labor Movement was founded in 1962 by Mr. Rosen and Mr. Scheer after they were expelled from the Communist Party of the United States for assertedly following the Chinese Communist line."

The PLP publishes the "Marxist-Leninist Quarterly," a theoretical magazine; "Progressive Labor," a monthly magazine; "Challenge," a New York City newspaper; and "Spark," a west coast newspaper.

The June 1, 1965, issue of "Challenge," page 6, states that, "this paper is dedicated to fight for a new way of life - where the working men and women own and control their homes, factories, the police, courts, and the entire government on every level."

The source advised that the PLP utilizes the address of General Post Office Box 808, Brooklyn 1, New York, but also utilizes an office in Room 622, 132 Nassau Street, New York City, where PLP publications are prepared.

APPENDIX

1.

YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

The May, 1960, issue of the "Young Socialist" ("YS"), page 1, column 3, disclosed that during April 15-17, 1960, a national organization entitled "Young Socialist Alliance" (YSA) was established at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This issue stated this organization was formed by the nationwide supporter clubs of the publication "YS."

The above issue, page 6, set forth the Founding Declaration of YSA. This declaration stated YSA recognizes the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) as the only existing political leadership on class struggle principles, and that the supporters of the "YS" have come into basic political solidarity with the SWP on the principles of revolutionary socialism.

A source advised on May 7, 1965, that the original YSA was an organization formed during October, 1957, in New York City, by youth of various left-socialist tendencies, particularly members and followers of the SWP. The leaders of this group were the guiding forces in the establishment of the national organization.

The source further advised on May 7, 1965, YSA is dominated and controlled on a national basis by the SWP through having SWP members comprise exclusively the National Executive Committee (NEC) and through an official SWP representative at all YSA NEC meetings. The YSA, in reality, is the youth and training section of the SWP and the main source of new SWP members.

The headquarters of the YSA is located in Room 631, 41 Union Square West, New York City.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

CONFIDENTIAL

11/4/65

Airtel

1 - Mr. [illegible]
1 - Mr. [illegible]

To: SACs Atlanta (100-5536)
Chicago (100-3535C)
New York (100-136585)
New Orleans (100-16200)

From: Director, FBI (100-106670)

CLASS. & EXT. BY 2842 [illegible] 1-16-79
REASON: FBI [illegible]
DATE OF REVIEW 11-4-85

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

ReWFOairtel 11/3/65 to the Bureau, Atlanta, [illegible] and Chicago, "MCUA, Klan Investigation, Racial [illegible]" For the information of New York and New Orleans, [illegible] information from [redacted] b7 b7

[redacted]

[redacted]

1 - Washington Field (100-40164)

1 - Bufile 157-2466 (Deacons of Defense and Justice)

157-2466

SFP:deh
(13)

SEE NOTE PAGE 2.

2 NOV 8 1965

5 NOV 12 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

Airtel to AT, CG, NY and NO
Re: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
100-1[illegible]370

CONFIDENTIAL

Chicago is instructed to immediately advise local authorities, Secret Service and the Army Intelligence on a highly confidential basis that the Bureau is in receipt of uncorroborated information that [redacted]

All recipients should attempt, through established reliable sources, to obtain information which would either corroborate or discredit [redacted] allegations. Take due regard for security of source.

Chicago is referred to its airtel and letterhead memorandum 10/26/68 concerning the Deacons of Defense and Justice. Continue attempt to obtain further information which may be pertinent concerning the possibility of the Deacons being connected [illegible]. Chicago must stay on top of this situation to insure that any organization of the Deacons is immediately known and [illegible].

New Orleans, as origin concerning the New [illegible] attempt to determine whether there is any indication that the organization has spread to Pennsylvania and New Jersey [illegible] appropriate, not out [illegible].

[redacted] b1

The Bureau should be kept promptly advised of all developments in this matter and information should be submitted in a form suitable for dissemination.

NOTE:

Memorandum from Baumgardner to Mr. Sullivan, 12/4/68, captioned "Martin Luther King, Jr., Security Matter - Communist" recommended dissemination of the information from [redacted] to the White House, Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Assistant Attorneys General Yeagley and Doar, Secret Service and the military intelligence agencies and additionally noted that appropriate instructions were going forward by a separate airtel to the field. Instant airtel serves that purpose. b7C b7D

CONFIDENTIAL

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: November 2, 1965

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) (157-

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (157-572) (157-840)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTER (ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] b7C
RACIAL MATTER

Re Chicago airtel to the Bureau, 10/26/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of a letterhead memorandum, two copies for New Orleans for information and two copies for Seattle, concerning captioned matter.

One copy of this letterhead memorandum is being designated for Region I, 113th INTC Group; United States Secret Service; and United States Attorney, all Chicago, Illinois.

LEADS

SEATTLE

AT SEATTLE, WASHINGTON. Enclosed letterhead memorandum contains information that the only known Northern branch of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) is in Seattle, Washington.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7 2010 BY Sp/gw

4 - Bureau (Enc. 9)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc. 2)
ENCLOSURE 157- [redacted] b7C
2 - Seattle (Enc. 2)
3 - Chicago
1 - 157-413

REC-6

NOV 4 1965

LGR/cah
(11)

AGENCY: ...
DATE: 11/5/65
HOW FILED: ...
BY: ...

cc: Community Relations Service
C.C. Wick

CG 157-572
CG 157-840

Seattle, if not already handled, report activities of DDJ at Seattle.

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will be alert for any information concerning the opening of a Chicago Chapter of the DDJ and the Bureau and New Orleans will be kept fully informed of developments in this matter.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Chicago, Illinois
November 2, 1965

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTER (ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] b7C
RACIAL MATTER

The following article appeared in the October 21, 1965, issue of the "Chicago Defender", a Chicago, Illinois, newspaper:

"Wither Thou Goest, I go...seems to be the new pattern for the Deacons of Defense and Justice with regard to the movements of the Ku Klux Klan. Since the Ku Kluxers and its menagerie of prehistoric, fire-spewing characters, made its splashy entrance into our great State of Lincoln, the Deacons' vice president, Earnest Thomas, has announced his indefinite stay in Chicago. Word is that the Klan has organized four chapters in Illinois thus far; Thomas is looking for recruits to join his self-defense organization. The only known northern branch is in Seattle, Washington.

"Self-Defense vs. Non-Violence was the theme of a program sponsored by the Westside Organization last Sunday. Thomas and Nahaz Rogers of ACT spoke on the side of self-defense, while Rev. C.T. Vivian and Rev. James Bevel defended their non-violence stand. It played to a SRO crowd at the Westside's First Congregational Church.

"Deacon Thomas discussed tactics of police and law enforcement officers and their one-way road of justice on the Lou House show Saturday. It is Thomas' belief that if the Deacons had been organized at the time NAACP leader Medgar Evers of Mississippi was murdered, it would not have happened. The Deacons claim they are dedicated to the protection of civil rights workers and defenseless Negroes."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-21 80 BY SP1 [illegible]

NOV 9

ENCLOSURE

b7C
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On November 1, 1965, [redacted] advised that no information has been developed that would indicate that a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. (DDJ), has been formed in Chicago. Earnest Thomas continues to remain in Chicago and is reportedly attempting to get office space on the west side of Chicago but to date he has not been able to obtain any office space. He added that it appears that Thomas has received very little encouragement, if any, from civil rights groups in Chicago. He added that there has not been any indication that Thomas has attempted to purchase or obtain any weapons while in Chicago.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FBI

Date: 11/3/65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

To: Director, FBI and
SAC, New York

From: SAC, Pittsburgh (157-429) (P)

THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE
RACIAL MATTERS

Re Newark airtel to Bureau, 9/20/65; Baltimore letter to Bureau, 9/22/65, and Pittsburgh letter to Bureau, 10/12/65.

It is noted that Newark LHM, which was forwarded with re Newark airtel dated 9/20/65, indicated that some affair was to be held at Harpers Ferry, Maryland, on 12/4/65 in honor of JOHN BROWN.

On 10/25/65, [redacted] Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, advised SA [redacted] that two Negro women, [redacted] New York, New York, and [redacted] Brooklyn, N. Y., were in Harpers Ferry, W. Va., on 10/21/65 ostensibly representing, to the best of [redacted]'s recollection, the "John Brown Remembrance Society". [redacted] stated he had made this identification of these individuals based on their signatures on a guest register located at the Mather Training Center of the National Park Service, Harpers Ferry (which was formerly a Negro Baptist college, Storer College).

[redacted] continued that [redacted] and [redacted] were seeking a place to hold a meeting which would be attended by about 700 people and they indicated a desire to hold the meeting on 12/4/65. The women determined that no facilities

b7C
b7D

- 1-80588

3 - Bureau
2 - New York (157-1542)
1 - Pittsburgh
1 - Baltimore (157-1008)(Info)

JTM/jep
(2)

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REC 14

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1-21-88 BY

16 NOV 5 1965

Approved: _____ Sent _____ Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

were available for such a meeting on 12/4/65 and they therefore selected 12/11/65 as the proposed date for said meeting. They determined that a banquet could be held at the Hilltop House, a privately owned Harpers Ferry restaurant-hotel, and that the Hilltop House could accommodate 350 people.

[redacted] stated that the women had spoken with Harpers Ferry Park Historian, [redacted] and were outspoken in complaints concerning various biographies of JOHN BROWN. It was [redacted]'s recollection that the women were sympathetic to a man named DuBOIS, who had either attended Storer College in the past or was a benefactor of that college. [redacted] also stated that it was his recollection that this individual named DuBOIS later became a communist and went to Ghana. b7C b7I

The indices of the Pittsburgh Office are negative concerning John Brown Remembrance Society, [redacted] and [redacted].

It would appear that the above meeting arranged to be held on 12/11/65 at the Hilltop House in Harpers Ferry might possibly be identical with the meeting referred to in above Newark LHM.

New York and the Bureau are requested to check their respective files with regard to the John Brown Remembrance Society, [redacted], and [redacted], and advise Pittsburgh of the results thereof.

New York is also requested to check with its informants to ascertain whether the above-mentioned meeting scheduled for 12/11/65 is an affair being held in behalf of The Deacons for Defense.

In the event it is determined that the John Brown Remembrance Society has some affiliation with The Deacons for Defense, New York is requested to furnish a suitable characterization of The Deacons for Defense which, UACB, will be disseminated by this office to the National Park Service and the West Virginia State Police detachment covering Harpers Ferry, W. Va.

FBI

CONFIDENTIAL 11/12/65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)
(157 -
FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)
(157-840)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM [illegible]
DATE OF REVIEW 11-12-85

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RM (ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] b7C
RM

Re Chicago airtel to Bureau, 11/2/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of letterhead memorandum and two copies for New Orleans information concerning captioned matter.

One copy of this letterhead memorandum is being designated for Region I, 113th IMTC Group, U.S. Secret Service and USA, Chicago, Illinois.

[redacted] (Protect [illegible]

b1
b7C
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REC 36 [illegible]

11/8/65 13 NOV 15 [illegible]

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.
DEPT: ISD, CRD, RAO

(4) - Bureau (Encls. 9) (RM) [redacted] b7C
(1 - 157
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Encls. 2) (Info) (RM)
(1 - 157[illegible]
2 - Chicago
LGR:djm
(8)

1cc & cc LHM
808 RB

57 NOV 22 1965

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CI 157-572
157-840

LEAD

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will remain alert for any information concerning the opening of a Chicago Chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. and the Bureau and New Orleans will be kept fully informed of the development in this matter.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

CONFIDENTIAL

Chicago, Illinois
November 12, 1965

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] b7c

RACIAL MATTERS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Reference is made to memorandum dated November 2, 1965, at Chicago, Illinois.

On the dates indicated the following advised that no information has been developed that would indicate that a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. (DDJ) has been formed in Chicago. Earnest Thomas who is associated with the DDJ is reportedly still attempting to obtain office space in Chicago for an office of the DDJ but to date there has not been any indication that he has obtained any office space. Thomas has received virtually no support from any civil rights group in Chicago. There has not been any indication that Thomas has attempted to purchase or obtain any weapons while in Chicago. No information has been received concerning Thomas's whereabouts recently and Thomas may have returned to Louisiana:

[redacted]

[redacted] and

[redacted] (c) b1

Confidential informants who are acquainted with certain racial matters in the Chicago, Illinois, area advised during November, 1965, that Earnest Thomas of the DDJ has recently been in Chicago attempting to gain support for a Chicago Chapter of the DDJ. Thomas has not had any success in organizing a Chicago Chapter of the DDJ and has met considerable resistance from civil rights organizations in Chicago.

CLASS. & EXT. BY [illegible]
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2
DATE OF REVIEW [illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE

157-2[illegible]

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

[redacted] b7c

CONFIDENTIAL

These informants also advised that there has not been any indication that Thomas has attempted to purchase or obtain any weapons while in Chicago. No information has been received concerning Thomas's whereabouts recently and Thomas may have returned to Louisiana.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Chicago, Illinois
November 12, 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

Title DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
[redacted] b7C

Character RACIAL MATTERS

Reference Memorandum dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

[redacted] is [redacted] b1 b7D

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: BERNARD S. LEE V. CLARENCE M. KELLEY, ET AL
(U.S.D.C, D.C.) CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 76-1185

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC)
V. CLARENCE M. KELLEY, ET AL (U.S.D.C., D.C.)
CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 76-1186

Unrecorded serial dated 11/9/65 pulled from this file under court order of U.S. District Judge John Lewis Smith, Jr., and sent to National Archives.

FBI

CONFIDENTIAL Date 11/15/65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, PITTSBURGH (157-429) (P)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gcl/flr
REASON
DATE OF REVIEW 11-15-85

SUBJECT: THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE
RACIAL MATTERS

JOHN BROWN COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE
IS - C

Re Newark airtel to Bureau dated 9/20/65 and Pittsburgh airtel to New York dated 11/3/65 both entitled, "The Deacons For Defense"; and Washington Field Office airtel to Pittsburgh dated 11/5/65, titled "John Brown Commemoration Committee."

For the information of Washington Field Office, copies of the following in the case entitled "The Deacons For Defense" are enclosed:

1. Newark airtel to Bureau dated 9/20/65.
2. Newark LHM dated 9/20/65.
3. Pittsburgh airtel to New York dated 11/3/65.

For the information of the Newark Office, one copy of each of the following, in the case titled "JOHN BROWN COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE," are enclosed:

1. Washington Field Office airtel to Pittsburgh dated 11/5/65.
2. Xerox copy of announcement of the John Brown Memorial Pilgrimage.

1 - SAC RP
(3) - Bureau (RM)
2 - Newark (Enc. 2) (RM)
(157-1992)
2 - New York (157-1542) (RM)
2 - Washington Field [redacted] (RM) (c) b1
2 - Pittsburgh
ERF/emq
(11)

REC-16

NOV 17 1965

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

It would appear that the John Brown Commemoration Committee may be an adjunct of The Deacons for Defense, and that the "Memorial Pilgrimage" scheduled for 12/11/65 at Harpers Ferry, W. Va., is identical with the planned meeting for 12/4/65, as set out in Newark LHM dated 9/20/65. In this connection, it is noted that the address for the John Brown Commemoration Committee is 100 West 82nd Street, New York, which was the address for the meeting of The Deacons for Defense mentioned in Newark airtel of 9/20/65. It is also noted that address for the West Side Unified Action Council is 100 West 82nd Street.

LEADS

NEWARK

[redacted] b1

NEW YORK

1. Will expedite Pittsburgh request for characterization of The Deacons for Defense and related organizations such as West Side Unified Action Council and the John Brown Commemoration Committee, with the degree of relationship of these organizations so that this information will be available for dissemination to the National Park Service and [redacted] by 12/1/65. It is noted that National Park Service may decide to have additional rangers available for duty. b7D

2. Will advise Pittsburgh if informants from New York will be covering the Pilgrimage.

3. Will advise Pittsburgh what specific coverage at Harpers Ferry, W. Va., if any, is desired.

CONFIDENTIAL

PG 157-429

CONFIDENTIAL

WASHINGTON FIELD

Will maintain contact with [redacted] who furnished the data concerning the Pilgrimage, and ascertain if he plans to attend the meeting on 12/11/65.

b7C
b7D

CONFIDENTIAL

MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

DATE:

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (157-1542)

SUBJECT: CHANGED
DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 11-24-8

Title is marked "Changed" to reflect correct title of organization per New Orleans routing slip dated 11/9/65. Title previously carried as "DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE; RACIAL MATTERS".

Re NYO teletype to New Orleans 11/8/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau and New Orleans are copies of LHM in captioned case. Information copies are also being supplied to Chicago, Los Angeles and Philadelphia in view of Philadelphia letter to New Orleans dated 10/14/65, indicating that an article appearing in a Philadelphia weekly publication entitled "Nite Life" reflects CHARLES SIMS, leader of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ), is due in Philadelphia this winter as part of a nation-wide tour.

An information copy is also being supplied to Jackson in view of the trip made by one CHARLES SIMS, not further identified, to Jackson on 10/27/65.

[redacted]

b1

(C) [redacted]

ENCLOSURE MCT-1

157-2466-90

2- Bureau (Encls. 8) (RM)
1- Chicago (Encls. 1) (Info) (RM)
1- Jackson (Encls. 1) (Info) (RM)
1- Los Angeles (Encls. 1) (Info) (RM)
2- New Orleans (157-3290) (Encls. 2) (RM)
1- Philadelphia (Encls. 1) (Info) (RM)
1- New York

REC-6

NOV 26 1965

GAJ:ers
(9)

AGENCY:
DATE: 12/7/65

INTL SEC.

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

(C) [redacted] b1

Careful consideration was given to all sources concealed and T symbols were used only where necessary.

This LHM is classified "Confidential" to protect the identities of the above sources. Unauthorized disclosure of information attributed to these sources might impair their future effectiveness and such impairment could have an adverse effect on the national defense interests.

The information supplied by [redacted] was supplied to SA [redacted].

[redacted] b7C b7I

On October 27, 1965, SA [redacted] made a pretext call [redacted] b7C b7E

[redacted] b7E

It should be noted as set forth in attached LHM that it was announced that SIMS was unable to speak on 10/25/65, as he was required to return to Bogalusa, Louisiana, for a court appearance. However, the C. SIMS mentioned above departed New York City on 10/27/65. The NYO does not have sufficient background data available regarding the subject to determine if he is identical with the CHARLES SIMS who made the Jackson trip.

[redacted] b7C b7D

NYO indices contain no identifiable references on one [redacted] b7C

[redacted] b7C b7D

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Bufile 157-2466
NYfile 157-1542

New York, New York

NOV 24 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

Deacons of Defense and Justice

Confidential sources mentioned in this communication and the appendix attached hereto have provided reliable information in the past.

The "Workers World", volume 7, number 20, page 3, dated October 14, 1965, contained an article captioned "President of Deacons for Defense to Speak in New York" which reflects that it was announced by Rictus Le Seur, a friend of the Deacons, from the newly opened office of the Friends of the Deacons for Defense and Justice (FDDJ), 271 West 125th Street, Room 209, New York, New York, that Charles Sims, founder of the Deacons for Defense and Justice (DDJ) and Robert Hicks, Vice President of the Bogalusa, Louisiana, Voters League will speak in New York on October 23 and 25, 1965.

The meeting on October 23, 1965, will be at 8:30 p.m. in the Unitarian Hall, Clinton and Fillmore Streets, West Brighton, Staten Island, New York.

On October 25, 1965, a rally will be held at 8:00 p.m. in Emanual Temple, 37 West 119th Street, New York City.

A characterization of the "Workers World" is attached in the appendix hereto.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~GROUP 1~~
~~Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification.~~

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gcl 7-21-
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4, 20 2
DATE OF REVIEW 11-24-85

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

ENCLOSURE

"The Worker", volume XXX, number 80, page 2, dated October 24, 1965, contained an article captioned "Deacons President to Speak in New York" which set forth substantially the same information as that contained in the above mentioned article.

"The Worker" is an east coast Communist newspaper.

[redacted] b1

[redacted] that[(3)] is a member of the Workers World Party. b1 b7C

A characterization of the YAWF appears in the appendix attached hereto.

[redacted] supplied[(2)] substantially the same information set forth above but also advised that the DDJ was to hold a meeting on October 24, 1965, believed to be in Manhattan. b1

On October 25, 1965, [redacted] advised that Charles Sims, b7C b7D

President of the DDJ in Louisiana, arrived in New York City, 1:15 p.m., October 23, 1965, at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFKIA) on Delta Airlines Flight 976.

[redacted] he attended (b) a fund raising affair for the DDJ at the Unitarian Church Hall, Clinton and Fillmore Streets, Staten Island, New York, from 8:50 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., October 23, 1965.

The source stated Mae Mallory took up most of the time relating her experiences in the civil rights movement and praising Robert Williams. She pointed out the similarities between Robert Williams' approach and the approach of the DDJ to the civil rights movement. Robert Hicks spoke about the various incidents that occurred in Bogalusa, Louisiana, while attempting to register Negroes to vote. Jerry Gutman, introduced as an attorney for Charles Sims, differed with Mae Mallory, stating that the DDJ is a legally constituted organization which is defensive and will remain so.

Robert Williams is characterized in the Revolutionary Action Movement which appears in the appendix attached hereto.

Charles Sims spoke about the background of the DDJ and stated the purpose of the DDJ is to protect Negro and white civil rights workers. He stated the DDJ is able to effectively deal with the Ku Klux Klan, however, he was critical of the local sheriff's office, stating the past Wednesday (October 20, 1965) the sheriff obtained the names of the DDJ

leaders and arrested them on various charges.

A characterization of the Ku Klux Klan appears in the appendix attached hereto.

During the question and answer period which followed the speeches Sims stated his primary concern is with the Bogalusa chapter of the DDJ. He stated there are 50 DDJ chapters throughout the south although he declined to comment on the total number of members. Admission of $2.00 per person was charged. Approximately 60 to 80 persons attended.

[redacted] he attended the above mentioned affair and provided essentially the same information as [redacted] but in addition stated (c) Sims did not criticize any particular approach to the civil rights effort. Sim's main theme appeared to be that those engaged in bargaining on civil rights issues such as Robert Hicks should be assured protection for themselves and their families. b1

After the meeting a reception was held for the persons who had appeared at the home of Ricque Le Seur on Staten Island [redacted] b7C

[redacted] that [redacted] b1 b7C

[redacted] and 25 members of the Brooklyn, New York, chapter of Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) attended the above mentioned affair.

[redacted] (c) b1 b7C

The CP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450 by the Attorney General of the United States.

[redacted] b7C

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (C) b7C

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (C) b7C

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] b7c

[redacted] that (c) b1 [redacted] b7c

[redacted] he attended (c) b1 a fund raising affair at Washington Temple Church of God in Christ, 1372 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, on October 24, 1965, where approximately 40 persons were present. This meeting was held after the regular church service which is from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Charles Sims stated during his speech that he is not a speaker, he is a "fighter". He spoke about the background of the DDJ but made no mention of firearms. When Sims requested donations for the organization, most of the audience walked out, however, a collection was taken. The source characterized Sims as a very reserved, very uninteresting speaker.

The "New York Herald Tribune", page 2, dated October 25, 1965, contained an article captioned "Armed Resistance By Negroes Urged" in which it was indicated that at a news conference Robert Hix, the Reverend William H. Melish and Charles Sims said "Negroes are going to start hitting back and perhaps should even arm themselves on the picket line." Hix qualified his statement by saying "Laws must be obeyed." The Reverend William Howard Melish, identified as a DDJ member, said "Arms were justified to protect life and property."

Reverend William H. Melish

[redacted] that William H. Melish was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council of American-Soviet Freindship (NCASF) as of April 11, 1964. (C) b1

The NCASF has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[redacted] 300 to 400 persons attended a meeting held at Emanual AME Church, 37 West 119th Street, New York City, from 8:15 to 10:45 October 25, 1965, at which Jesse Gray, the master of ceremonies, apologized for the absence of Charles Sims, who was to be the main speaker. Gray stated that Sims had to return to Louisiana in order not to forfeit bail on a local charge. (C) b1

Mae Mallory gave a speech in which she stated each gun for the Deacons cost $80.00. Mallory asked those in attendance to pledge a gun individually for the Deacons. Several persons signed pledges for guns. A collection of $126.00 was taken up for the Deacons.

[redacted] b7C

[redacted] b1

[redacted] b1

(C)

[redacted] Charles (b)
Sims of the Deacons spoke at a public meeting sponsored by the YAWF at Academy Hall, 853 Broadway, New York City. Sims recounted experiences of racial persecution and claimed that the persecution had been somewhat alleviated through the formation of the Deacons, which are armed for self defense. Sims indicated that the DDJ in Bogalusa had about 200 followers and indicated a new unit was being formed in Chicago. Sims asked for contributions to carry on the work of the DDJ and a collection was made for him.

The "Workers World", volume 7, number 22, page 1, dated November 11, 1965, contained an article captioned "Charles Sims, Deacon of Defense President, speaks in NYC" which reflects Sims addressed a meeting of 300 at Academy Hall, New York City, sponsored by the YAWF.

The article reflects Sims stated civil rights workers, some of them white, had been threatened with physical violence by the Klan and were about to be attacked when he and some friends started an armed defense guard in Bogalusa, Louisiana, in the early part of this year.

Having staked out his men around the local CORE headquarters, Sims saw the chief of police looking things over. At first inclined to ignore the chief, since he knew him as a racist probably in league with the Klan himself, he changed his mind, went over to him and said: "You better stop 'em. 'cause if you don't we're gonna kill them all."

The chief apparently did not take this statement lightly. There was no trouble and Sims reported: "That night a brand new Negro was born."

A collection of $400.00 was raised from the audience. Over $200.00 was raised at a house party in Brooklyn later on.

On November 1, 1965, [redacted] advised [redacted] was contacted by an unknown individual [redacted] stated Charles Sims departed New York City on November 1, 1965, for return to Bogalusa, Louisiana.

b7C
b7D

1. APPENDIX

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC.,
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN

Records of Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, reflect that this Klan organization was granted a corporate charter on February 21, 1961, at Atlanta, Georgia, under the name United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

A source advised on February 27, 1961, that United Klans was formed as a result of a split in U.S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc. According to the source, the split resulted from a leadership dispute and United Klans has the same aims and objectives as the parent group. These are the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy, and segregation of the races.

The first source and a second source advised in July, 1961, that United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc., merged with Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The merged organization established headquarters in Suite 401, the Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. (The organization is directed by ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, and is the dominant Klan group in the South, with units in several Southern states.)

Second source advised that at a meeting at Prattville, Alabama, on October 22, 1961, the U.S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, merged with the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Third source advised on August 4, 1965, that the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, is currently an active organization, with Klaverns in several Southern states. This source said that ROBERT M. SHELTON is the Imperial Wizard of this organization, and was last elected to this position on September 5, 1964, at a National Klonvocation in Birmingham, Alabama. Source said that the activity of the United Klans of America is increasing and that the national office remains in Suite 401, Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

1. APPENDIX

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT

On November 3, 1964, a source made available a document entitled "The Revolutionary Action Movement Manifesto," the document having been obtained by the source from an individual known to be a member of the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM).

This document stated, in part, that RAM was officially organized in the Winter of 1963 by Afro-Americans who support the revolutionary objectives of ROBERT F. WILLIAMS, now residing in Cuba, and his concept of organized violence to achieve the liberation of the Afro-American people in the United States. This Manifesto disclosed that RAM had oriented its program to one of education and political revolution and the organization of a "black" political party with revolutionary objectives, having recognized the need for a "black revolution" that could and would seize power. RAM philosophy is described in this document as one of revolutionary nationalism, that is, one involving the struggles of the nonwhite races of the world against exploitation and enslavement by the white capitalist and imperialist nations.

Regarding WILLIAMS, it should be noted that on August 28, 1961, a Federal warrant was issued at Charlotte, North Carolina, charging him with Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution for the crime of kidnapping. Subsequent to the issuance of this warrant, WILLIAMS fled the United States to Cuba, where he now publishes a monthly newsletter entitled "The Crusader" from Havana.

This source in September, 1964, advised RAM is dedicated to the overthrow of the capitalist system in the United States, by violence if necessary, and to its replacement by a socialistic system oriented toward the Chinese communist interpretation of Marxism-Leninism. RAM is entirely nonwhite in membership, clandestine in nature, and owes its primary allegiance to the "Bandung World," that is, the nonwhite races of the world rather than to any national entity, as such.

On November 16, 1964, a second source advised he learned recently from an RAM member that the organization began in Detroit, Michigan, largely under the impetus of DON FREEMAN, described as the "Father" of RAM and referred to

2. APPENDIX

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT

as RAM's "Black Stalin." FREEMAN served as RAM Chairman, with MAXWELL STANFORD, now of New York City, formerly of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, serving as RAM Field Chairman.

This source stated in May, 1965, there has been no formal headquarters, as such, for RAM but that headquarters have been with FREEMAN since he has played such a dominant role in the leadership of and has directed the policies and activities of the organization.

Within recent months, according to the second source, dissension within RAM has become evident and some dissatisfaction with FREEMAN's leadership has arisen. So far as is known, however, he remains the titular leader of RAM.

To date, according to the second source in May, 1965, RAM has organized units and membership in several of the larger cities in the United States east of the Mississippi River and the organization is currently active in attempting to recruit new members and expand its sphere of influence.

1. [illegible]

APPENDIX

"WORKERS WORLD"

On May 3, 1965, a confidential source advised that the "Workers World" is the official newspaper of the Workers World Party, published twice monthly, with editorial offices located at 46 West 21st Street, New York, New York.

1.

APPENDIX

WORKERS WORLD PARTY

On April 17, 1959, a confidential source advised that on February 12, 1959, a Socialist Workers Party (SWP) minority group under the leadership of National Committee member, SAM BALLAN, split from the SWP.

The source stated that this minority group, referred to as the Marcyites, after many years of program and policy differences on varied issues concerning tactics and interpretation of political events, split from the SWP on the grounds that the Party was liquidating itself by departi from the Marxist precepts of LEON TROTSKY and retreating from the fight for the world socialist revolution. The final issue which ultimately forced the split was the minority's opposition to the SWP regroupment policy which involved co-operation with the Communist Party (CP) periphery-individuals characterized by the minority as petty-bourgeois.

The minority program, according to source, advocated unconditional defense of the Soviet Union and has as its goal the building of a revolutionary party with a complete proletarian orientation for the purpose of overthrowing capitalism in the United States and throughout the world.

On May 12, 1960, source advised that this minority group had chosen the name Workers World Party.

On May 3, 1965, second source advised that the Workers World Party, which maintains headquarters at 45 West 21st Street, New York, New York, supports the People's Republic of China in its ideological dispute with the Soviet Union.

The SWP and the CP have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

1. APPENDIX

YOUTH AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM

A confidential source advised on March 29, 1965, that the Youth Against War and Fascism (YAWF), formerly known as the Anti-Fascist Youth Committee, was established by the Workers World Party (WWP) in the summer of 1962, to bring college and high school youth into the periphery of WWP activities and thereby gain recruits for the organization.

A second confidential source advised on October 23, 1964, that a flyer distributed by the YAWF describes that organization as a militant organization of young workers and worker-students for combating war and fascism.

The first source advised on March 29, 1965, that the YAWF maintains an office in Room 1214, 1123 Broadway, New York City, and publishes a magazine called "The Partisan."

FBI

Date: 11/18/65

Transmit the following in CONFIDENTIAL
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL REGISTERED
(Priority)

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, Detroit (157-NEW) (P)

RALLY OF DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE SPONSORED BY CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY (CORE)
11/20/65
DETROIT, MICHIGAN
RM

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM regarding captioned planned rally. Two copies of LHM are being furnished the New Orleans Division, which Office has an interest in the Deacons for Defense and Justice.

One copy of LHM being furnished G-2, ONI, OSI, USA and one copies being furnished Secret Service, all Detroit, Mich.

[redacted] (C) b1

[redacted] and [redacted] are aware of contents of LHM. b7D

REC 12 157-4566-71

This matter will be followed and Bureau advised after rally.

ENCLOSURE (6)

3 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (RM)
2 - New Orleans (Enc. 2) (RM)
3 - Detroit
(1 - 157-706 POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)
[redacted] (C) b1

FJP/fms
(8)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 SAW/ff 7-22-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4, 2 BY CHECK
DATE OF REVIEW 11-18-85

AGENCY:
DATE FOR NEW REVIEW:
BY:

Approved: Special Agent in Charge Sent M Per

CONFIDENTIAL

NOV 20 1965

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Detroit, Michigan
November 18, 1965

Re: Rally of Deacons for Defense and Justice Sponsored by Congress Of Racial Equality (CORE)
November 20, 1965
Detroit, Michigan

On November 17, 1965, a source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that CORE is the sponsor of a rally for the Deacons for Defense and Justice to be held on Saturday, November 20, 1965, beginning at 8:00 p.m. at the new St. Peters Baptist Church, Woodrow Wilson and Pingree Streets in Detroit.

According to the source, this rally is being held in an effort to raise money for the Deacons for Defense and Justice who are having difficulty raising funds in the South because of local hostility and economic pressures against them there. Source advised that Ernest Thomas, a Vice President of the Deacons for Defense and Justice from Jonesboro, Louisiana, will be the featured speaker at this rally.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 gal/ff

FBI

Date: 11/22/65

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1-21-00 BY

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boyd
Mr. Mohr
Miss Gandy

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (157-1140)(C)

RALLY OF DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE SPONSORED BY CORE, 11/20/65, DETROIT, MICH.
RM

Remyairtel and LHM 11/18/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning captioned rally, which was held as scheduled on 11/20/65. Two copies of the LHM are being furnished the New Orleans Division which office has an interest in the Deacons for Defense and Justice and two copies are being furnished the Chicago Division in view of reference in enclosed LHM to plans for establishing northern branch of the "Deacons" at Chicago, Ill.

One copy of LHM is being furnished G-2, ONI, CSI and USA, and two copies of LHM being furnished U.S. Secret Service, all Detroit, Mich.

Source utilized in LHM is [redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] has been apprised of the data in LHM.

8 ENCLOSURE

(3) - Bureau (Enc. 8)(RM)
2 - New Orleans (Enc. 2)(RM)
2 - Chicago (Enc. 2)(RM)
2 - Detroit
1 - 157-706 (POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)

FJP:sal
(9)

12 NOV 23 1965

B. C. Wick

AGENCY:

Approved: _____ Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

65 DEC 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Detroit, Michigan
November 22, 1965

Re: Rally of Deacons for Defense and Justice Sponsored by Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), November 20, 1965, Detroit, Michigan

Reference is made to memorandum at Detroit, Michigan, dated November 18, 1965.

On November 22, 1965, a source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that on November 20, 1965, beginning at approximately 8:00 PM and ending at approximately 11:00 PM, a rally for the Deacons for Defense and Justice, sponsored by CORE, was held at the new St. Peter's Baptist Church, Woodrow Wilson and Pingree Streets in Detroit. Source advised that approximately 100 individuals attended this rally and admission was charged for same.

According to the source, the keynote speaker was Ernest Thomas, a vice-president of the Deacons for Defense and Justice from Jonesboro, Louisiana, and several other local individuals also spoke. The tenor of the rally was a relating of the racial situation both in the North and the South and an explanation of the need for and purpose of the Deacons for Defense and Justice. It was stated that the main purpose of the rally was to raise funds which are to be used in plans toward establishing the first northern branch of the Deacons for Defense and Justice at Chicago, Illinois.

According to the source, the rally was peaceful and orderly.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

SAC, Savannah

CONFIDENTIAL
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

11/20/65

Director, FBI (157-2466)

1 - Mr. Murphy

CLASS & EXT. BY SP1 pl 1/4 7-21
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-5 2
DATE OF REVIEW 11-20-85

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS

ReNYteletype to Bureau and Columbia, via Savannah.

[redacted] b1

Savannah should check the accuracy of the above telephone listing as same appears to be one digit short.

New Orleans as Office of Origin regarding captioned organization, should make the necessary inquiries for any available information regarding the formation of the self-defense unit in Saint George, South Carolina.

The above caption should be utilized in this investigation until such time as the proper title of this organization is determined.

1 - New Orleans (157-3290)
1 - New York (157-1542)

REC 1

11 NOV 29 1965

BPM:rth (6)

NOTE: The Deacons of Defense and Justice is a Negro organization whose main purpose is to arm Negroes for protection against Klan violence, and also has been active in racial demonstrations.

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

CONFIDENTIAL

COMM-FBI
NOV 26 1965

FBI

Date: 11/19/65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-413)

RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

Re San Antonio airtel and LHM dated 9/16/65 and O-1 Form dated 11/12/65.

This case has been closed in the San Antonio Office since 9/16/65, in view of the fact that there has been no further activity on the part of the above captioned organization in San Antonio Division.

There is enclosed for the Bureau a copy of the Albany letter to San Antonio 10/13/65 captioned as above, and setting forth information that MARK KLEIN and DOUGLAS HAINLINE are both at Cornell University.

O-7 to SA 11/24/65
Incorporate info. in Albany 10/13/65 into a LHM + disc. according to See-Sen. + the military intelligence agencies. Also send copy of the LHM as well as all correspondence relating to the Deacons of Defense and Justice to NO when this is to be sent to the Bureau. SOG. BPM:CD.

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
1 - Albany (157-163)(Info)
1 - San Antonio
GWHC/cbl
(5)

REC 1 157-

12 NOV 30 1965

E. C. Wick

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 gal/jk

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

SAC, San Antonio (157-413) 10/12/65

SAC, Albany (157-163) (RUC)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTER

Re San Antonio airtel and LHM dated 9/16/65 to Bureau.

On 9/20/65, [redacted] Cornell University, advised SA [redacted], that [redacted] and DOUGLAS HAINLINE had both returned to Cornell University. On 9/23/65, [redacted] made available a copy of a [illegible] page throwaway which he stated that he had learned was being distributed on the Cornell University Campus. DOUGLAS HAINLINE obtained authority for this distribution. This material is captioned "Armed Negro Unit Spreads in South" and contains an account from the June 6, 1965, issue of the "New York Times" concerning the activities of the Deacons of Defense and Justice in various Southern states. The following is set forth:

b7C
b7D

"The Civil Rights Movement has [illegible] national non-violence. While the racists' reaction to the movement has become more and more ferocious, legal authorities have at best given only token aid to the Negro and, at worst, actually aided the racists.

"The Civil Rights Movement must now take up arms for its own preservation--so that it can continue to exist and struggle.

(2-San Antonio (RM)
1-Albany

[illegible]M:mjc
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

"Here at firsthand an account of the Deacons Movement by Mark Klein who is speaking on 'Armed Self Defense--The Next Stage in the Negro Struggle'.

"Mr. Klein, a Cornell senior, participated in the Civil Rights Movement in Texas and has met and talked with Charles Sims, a major leader of the Deacons Movement who has given Klein permission to publicize the Deacons and to raise money for them."

The throwaway then goes on [illegible] this meeting to be held at 8:15 PM on September 28, 1965, at Ives Hall on the Cornell Campus and states that "the formation of a committee at Cornell to aid the Deacons will be discussed".

The September 29, 1965, issue of the "Cornell Daily Sun", a daily student newspaper published at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. contained an account of the above meeting. This account states that KLEIN, who was the speaker, received permission from Deacon leader CHARLES SIMS in Bogalusa, Louisiana, to raise money for the organization. During his speech, KLEIN stated that the Deacons of Defense and Justice are not an armed rebellion, not a terrorist revenge group, not a group dedicated to violence for violence' sake, but an organization to protect the home and family of the Southern Negro. He pointed out that between 1880 and 1950 there were over 5,000 documented Negro lynchings in the South and contended that the situation has not greatly changed.

He claimed that CORE found out that their field workers were safer when the Deacons were around and that they then took the hypocritical attitude of "protected non-violence".

KLEIN stated that guns are not a solution to the problem of the Negro, but merely a protection under which to work. He said that local police, State justice and Federal help are all ineffective in protecting the Negro,

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

AL 157-163

claiming that sheriffs have beers with Klan members and that the FBI "takes notes and pictures while you are beat up". He said that the Deacons act as a deterrent to violence since "white racists are not willing to trade their superior lives for Negroes' inferior lives".

KLEIN claimed that in the Southern States, there is no law for the Negro or the Civil Rights worker and that to continue non-violence there is to invite more violence.

KLEIN indicated that he was trying to start a new group on campus to aid the Deacons and to bring a Deacon speaker up to Cornell.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

TELETYPE UNIT
NOV 19 1965
ENCODED MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

FBI NEW YORK

9-17 PM EST DEFERRED 11/19/65 M.F.R.

TO DIRECTOR, FBI //15// AND COLUMBIA (VIA SAVANNAH)

COLUMBIA VIA (SAVANNAH) ENCODED VIA WASHINGTON

FROM NEW YORK (157-1542)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 SCL/ [illegible]
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2. 4. 2. [illegible]
DATE OF REVIEW 11-19-80

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RACIAL MATTER

[redacted] b1

END-

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

WA.. LLD FOR R

FBI WSASH DC

EX-113

CONFIDENTIAL

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-107

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

DATE: 11/30/65

FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (157-1008) -RUC-

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS
OO: NEW ORLEANS

Re Pittsburgh letter to Bureau 10/12/65; New York letter to Bureau 10/28/65; Pittsburgh airtel to Bureau 11/3/65.

Enclosed for New Orleans is one copy each of Baltimore airtel to Bureau 8/17/65 and re Pittsburgh letter and airtel.

On 11/19/65, [redacted] was discretely interviewed by SA [redacted] relative to the Kennedy farm and farmhouse, commonly referred to as "JOHN BROWN's Farm" located in the southern part of Washington County, Md., mailing address of Rt. 1, Harper's Ferry, West Va. It was determined that this property, previously utilized as a "regional" headquarters for the "Negro Elks", has been for sale for sometime. [redacted]

It was further determined [redacted] that there has been no affairs held at "JOHN BROWN's Farm" in recent months, and he was unaware of any meetings or gatherings of any size to be held at this site within the coming months. [redacted] is unaware of the use to which [redacted] plans to put this property; he thought [redacted] might have intentions of establishing a boys camp there.

REC-21

DEC 2 1965

(2) - Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)
1 - New York (157-1542) (Info) REGISTERED MAIL
2 - New Orleans (157-3290 (Enc. 3) REGISTERED MAIL
1 - Pittsburgh (157-429) (Info) REGISTERED MAIL
1 - Baltimore
RIM:par
(7)

DEC 10 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-12-58 BY SP1 [illegible]

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

BA 157-1008

In view of the above and the information contained in re Pittsburgh airtel 11/3/65 reflecting that captioned organization apparently has scheduled the affair, planned for 12/4/65, at the Hilltop House, Harper's Ferry, West Va., on 12/11/65, no further investigation of this matter is being conducted by Baltimore and no contact with [redacted] is being considered. Baltimore indices contained no information on [redacted].

FBI

Date: 11/29/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

AIRTEL

CONFIDENTIAL

Via _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-413) RUC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

OO: NO

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM II, [illegible]
DATE OF REVIEW 11-29-85

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, CSI, SEC. SER.
DEPT: ISD, CND, REG

Re San Antonio airtel dated 11/19/65, and Bureau routing slip dated 11/24/65.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are 8 copies of LHM on captioned subject matter.

Enclosed for Houston and New York are two copies each of LHM on captioned matter for informational purposes since these offices have an interest in the organization.

Four copies of the LHM are enclosed for Albany which is requested to disseminate two copies to Secret Service locally.

Two copies of the LHM are enclosed to New Orleans, office of origin, together with the following communications which may be of interest to the New Orleans Office:

3-Bureau (Encs. 8) RM
2-New Orleans (Encs. 13) RM
2-Houston (Encs. 2) RM
2-New York (Encs. 2) RM
2-Albany (157-163) (Encs. 4) RM
2-SA
(1-157-413)
(1-66-1620)
JJC:eks
(13)

EX-112

REC-49 157-2466-97

1cc & cc LHM
808 RB

DEC 2 1965

ENCLOSURE

E. C. WICK

DEC 16 1965

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

San Antonio airtel to Bureau, 8/9/65, captioned The Committee to Aid the Deacons.

San Antonio airtel and accompanying LHM dated 8/20/65, captioned The Committee to Aid the Deacons.

San Antonio airtel and accompanying LHM dated 8/20/65, captioned The Committee to Aid the Deacons.

San Antonio airtel and accompanying LHM dated 8/26/65, captioned The Committee to Aid the Deacons.

San Antonio airtel and accompanying LHM dated 8/28/65, captioned The Committee to Aid the Deacons.

[redacted] b7D

New York letter to San Antonio dated 10/7/65, captioned Committee to Aid the Deacons, NM.

One copy each of LHM has been disseminated locally to CSI, ONI, and 112th INTC. Two copies of LHM have been furnished Secret Service, San Antonio.

INFORMANTS

[redacted] b1

CONFIDENTIAL

SA 157-[illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION

The enclosed LHM is classified "Confidential" due to the fact that information furnished by [redacted] could reasonably result in identification of a confidential informant of continuing value and compromise future effectiveness thereof. (C) b1

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

[illegible], Ohio, [illegible]

In Reply, Please Refer to

November [illegible], [illegible]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gen 1-fr 1-22
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2.2
DATE OF REVIEW 11-29-85

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

On September 28, 19[illegible], [redacted] b7C
[redacted] Case University, [illegible] b7D
[illegible] born [illegible] University. On September 29, 19[illegible] [redacted] [illegible]
[illegible] copy of a one page [illegible]
[illegible] being distributed [illegible]
University campus. DOUGLAS [illegible]
[illegible] "[illegible] South" [illegible]
[illegible] June 6, 19[illegible] [illegible]
the activities of the leadership [illegible]
[illegible] United States [illegible]

"[illegible] rights [illegible]
[illegible] When [illegible]
[illegible] have [illegible]
[illegible]

"[illegible] rights [illegible]
up arms [illegible] own protection [illegible]
[illegible] continue to exist and struggle [illegible]

"Here at firsthand an [illegible] of the Deacons
Movement by Mark Klein who is speaking on Armed
Self Defense. The Next stage in the Deacons [illegible]

"Mr. Klein, a Cornell [illegible] participated
in the Civil Rights Movement in [illegible] and
and travelled with Charles [illegible] leader of
the Deacons Movement who had [illegible] permission
to publicize the Deacons and to raise money for them."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

57-24661

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

The throw away then goes on to advertise this meeting to be held at 8:15 p.m. on September 29, 1966, at Ives Hall on the Cornell campus and states that "the formation of a committee at Cornell to aid the Deacons will be discussed."

The September 29, 1966, issue of the Cornell Daily Sun, a daily student newspaper published at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, contained an account of the above meeting. This account states that KLEIN, who was the speaker, received permission from Deacon leader, CHARLES SIMS, in Bogalusa, Louisiana, to raise money for the organization. During his speech, KLEIN stated that the Deacons of Defense and Justice are not an armed rebellion, not a terrorist [illegible] not a group dedicated to violence for violence [illegible] an organization to protect the home and family [illegible] Negro [illegible] pointed out that between 1890 and 19[illegible] there were over [illegible],000 documented Negro lynchings, [illegible] and concluded that the situation has not greatly changed."

He claimed that the Congress of Racial Equality [illegible] that their field workers were taken when the Deacons [illegible] and that they then took the opportunity [illegible] covered non-violence."

KLEIN [illegible] that guns are not a solution to the problem of the Negro, but merely a protection they want to work [illegible] said that local police, [illegible] and [illegible] help are all inactive in protecting the Negro. He claimed that sheriffs have been with Klan members and that the [illegible] "takes notes and pictures while you get beat up." He [illegible] that the Deacons act as a deterrent to violence since white racists are not willing to trade their superior lives for Negroes' inferior ones."

KLEIN claimed that in the Southern states, there is no law for the Negro or the civil rights worker and that to continue nonviolence there is to invite more violence.

KLEIN indicated that he was trying to start a new group on campus to aid the Deacons and to bring a Deacon speaker up to Cornell.

CONFIDENTIAL

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPT OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

On August 2, 1965, while in Austin, Texas, FBI described "'the Deacons' as an armed Negro self defense group."

[redacted] (C) b1

[redacted] b7D

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

[redacted] b7D

At this time, KLEIN listed the address of the Committee [illegible] and the telephone [illegible] University Station, Austin, Texas. The address of the [illegible] was not known by [redacted] (C) b1

On October [illegible], [illegible] [redacted] b7

[redacted] has indicated that there [illegible] b7

[illegible] interest in the above organization in Austin. [illegible] on the wire.

[redacted] pointed out that both [illegible] Austin [illegible] there is no [illegible] Department of Justice, [illegible]

[redacted] b1 he has [illegible] (C)

no information indicating that [illegible] in Austin.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

San Antonio, Texas

November 29, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Title DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

Character

Reference San Antonio memorandum dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contins neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency, it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FBI 12/6/65

Date: CONFIDENTIAL

Transmit the following in AIRTEL (Type in plaintext or code) REGISTERED

Via (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEWARK

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM [illegible]
DATE OF REVIEW 12-6-85

SUBJECT: THE DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RM
Newark File 157-1922
Bureau File 157-2436

JOHN BROWN COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE
IS-C
Newark File 100-48717
Bureau File 100-

Re Pittsburgh airtel to Bureau, dated 11/15/65.

[redacted] (C) b1

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

6 - Bureau
4 - Pittsburgh (157-429)
(2- 100-)
5 - Newark
[redacted] (C) b1

REC- 51

8 DEC 7 1965

JRL:lmr
(15)

Approved: RWB
Special Agent in Charge

Sent X Per

Optional Form No. 10
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

TO : Director, FBI DATE: 12/1/65

FROM: SAC, Savannah

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RM

BUFILE NO: 157-2466
SAVANNAH FILE NO: 157-731
COLUMBIA FILE NO: 157-122

Due to the opening of the Columbia Office, the following action is being taken in captioned matter:

A. LOCATION OF FILE

1. ( ) Entire file transferred to Columbia herewith.

2. ( ) File transferred to Columbia except one copy following serials retained at Savannah:

3. (x) File retained at Savannah but one copy of following serials transferred to Columbia:

see pg. 2

B. OFFICE OF ORIGIN

( ) Savannah
( ) Columbia
(x) New Orleans

C. STATUS

(x) PENDING
( ) RUC to Columbia
( ) Closed to Columbia

157-2466

NOT RECORDED
3 DEC 1 1965

1 - Bureau (RM)
1 - New Orleans (RM)
1 - Columbia (RM)
1 - Savannah
SAS:jfs
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

SV 157-731

1. SVmemo of Supv. [redacted] 6/11/65
2. SVmemo of SAC JAMES T. NEAGLE, 7/21/65
3. CEtel to Bureau, 7/14/65
4. Newspaper clipping, "Wall Street Journal", 7/12/65
5. Buairtel to SV, 7/19/65
6. NOairtel to Bureau, 8/4/65
7. SVmemo of SA [redacted] 8/12/65
8. NOrep of SA [redacted] 8/17/65
9. FD 209, 8/29/65
10. FD 209, 8/29/65
11. SVlet to Bureau, 9/15/65

b7C

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL 12/10/65
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-441968)

FROM: SAC, WFO (157-425) (P)

ASSOCIATED COMMUNITY TEAMS (ACT)
IS - C
O DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

Reairtel from Philadelphia, 12/6/65. Also reWFOairtel and LHM captioned "ORGANIZATION FOR BLACK POWER, RACIAL MATTERS", dated 11/18/65, with no copies for Baltimore and New Haven.

5-Bureau
(1- 157-3022) (OBP)
(1-) (DFDJ)
3-Baltimore (RM) (100-23349)
(1- 157-) (OBP)
4-Chicago (RM) (157-303)
(1- 157-878) (OBP)
(1-) ([redacted]) b7C
2-New Haven (RM) (100-18253)
6-WFO
(1- 157-583) (OBP)
(1- 157-528) ([redacted]) b7C
(1- 157-237) (LIAISON SOURCES)
(1- 157-433) (POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)
(1- 157-448) (RACIAL RIOTS)

(Copy count continued on page 2)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-22-80 BY [illegible]

...K/dan
(33)

157-24865

AIRTEL

DEC 15 1965

DEC 1 6 1965

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

NFO 157-425

(Continued copy count)

5-New Orleans (RM)
(1-) (OBP)
(1-) (DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE)
(1-) ([redacted])
3-New York (RM) (100-152916)
(1- 157-1469) (OBP)
5-Philadelphia (RM) (100-47502)
(1- 157-1508) (OBP)
(1- 157-47093) ([redacted]) b7C
(1- 157-700) ([redacted])

- - - - - - - - - - - -

On 12/10/65, [redacted] (protect identity, has furnished reliable information in the past) stated as follows:

He has no information that [redacted] Pennsylvania, plans to lead a new civil rights organization. b7
[redacted] of ACT, Organization For Black Power (OBP), Deacons For Defense and Justice (DFDJ) and others (not named) on a future date (not named) to discuss future plans of activity. [redacted] does not expect such meeting will take place until 1966, [redacted] b7

[redacted] a "fund raising" rally in Washington, D. C. for the benefit of the Deacons For Defense and Justice. This has to be approved by ERNEST THOMAS, currently in Chicago. THOMAS is Regional Vice President, DFDJ, and is to appear at the rally. The rally will not be held in 1965, but awaits plans for 1966.

WFO 157-425

[redacted] stated that he knows of no plans for any future demonstrations by ACT in Washington, D. C. He had no information regarding future plans by ACT, OBP, and DFDJ elsewhere.

b7C
b7D

Liaison will be maintained with [redacted].

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ROUTING UNIT DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) CONFIDENTIAL DATE: 12/14/65
LETTER SENT

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka
RM

Re Bulet to Savannah, 11/26/65.

[redacted] (C) b1

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible] 7-1-80
REASON - FOIPA II, 1-2, [illegible]
DATE OF REVIEW 12-[illegible]

REC- 48 157-2466-99

EX-[illegible]

DEC 16 1965

(3) - Bureau
1 - Savannah
2 - Columbia
2 - New Orleans

MAK:mnw
(8)

CONFIDENTIAL

EXT. SEC.

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

FBI

Date: 12-10-65

Transmit the following in CONFIDENTIAL
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)
(157-)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1/SJH/jt
REASON - FCIM
DATE OF REVIEW 12-10-85

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)
(157-840)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RM
(ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] b7C
RM

Re Chicago airtel to Bureau dated 11/12/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of a letterhead memorandum and for New Orleans three copies, concerning captioned matter.

[redacted] (protect requested). b1 b7D (c)

REC 79

[redacted] b1
ST-10[redacted] (c) b1

9 ENCLOSURE

16 DEC 10 1965

4 - Bureau (Enc. 9)
(1 - 157-) ([redacted] b7C
3 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc. 3)
(Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated
(1 - 157-) ([redacted] b7C
3 - Chicago
(1 - 157-413)
LGR/mjt
(10)

AGENCY: ACSI, OSI, SEC. SER.
DATE FORWARDED: CRS
LOW FILE BY:

DEC 21 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M P.M.
Special Agent in Charge

CG 157-572
CG 157-840

CONFIDENTIAL

(C) [redacted] b1

One copy of this letterhead memorandum is being designated for Region I, 113th INTC Group; United States Secret Service, and the United States Attorney, Chicago, Illinois.

LEADS

NEW ORLEANS

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA. Will furnish Chicago photograph of EARNEST THOMAS and any information received concerning the current whereabouts of THOMAS and any indication that a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, may be organized in Chicago.

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will be alert for any information concerning the opening of a Chicago Chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, and the Bureau and New Orleans will be kept fully informed of developments in this matter.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Chicago, Illinois
December 10, 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS
(ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] b7C

RACIAL MATTERS

Reference is made to memorandum dated November 12, 1965, at Chicago, Illinois.

On the dates indicated the following advised that no information has been developed which would indicate that a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated (DDJ) has been formed in Chicago. They also advised that there has been no indication that Earnest Thomas, who is associated with the DDJ, is presently in Chicago.

[redacted]
Chicago, November 16, 1965. b7C

[redacted] Chicago, December 7, 1965. b7D

[redacted] December 8, 1965.

[redacted] (C) b1

Confidential informants who are acquainted with certain racial matters in the Chicago, Illinois area advised during December, 1965, that no information has been received

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 pkl/jl 7-22-85
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.B 2
DATE OF REVIEW 12-10-85

157-[illegible]-10

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

that would indicate that a chapter of the DDJ has been formed in Chicago. They advised that Earnest Thomas has not been in Chicago for the past few weeks but is expected to return to Chicago sometime in the future.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Chicago, Illinois
December 10, 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

Title: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

[redacted] b7C

Character: RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

Reference: is made to memorandum dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

[redacted] is [redacted] b1 b7D

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FBI

Date: [illegible]

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, SEATTLE (157-50[illegible]) (C)

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, U.S.
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] b7C
RACIAL MATTERS

Re Chicago airtel to Bureau 11/[illegible] and letter to Seattle 11/[illegible]/[illegible] (IC).

Re referenced communications [illegible] articles appearing in the [illegible] which indicates that [illegible] and Justice in Centralia, Washington [illegible] and racial tension in Centralia, [illegible] to furnish any information [illegible] information in the Centralia area [illegible] been transfer to rotate [illegible] office [illegible] any information concerning [illegible] covers [illegible] mention of the Director of the area [illegible] local news [illegible] that a branch of [illegible] information [illegible] Director, [illegible] Mr. [illegible] THOMAS, while [illegible] Chicago.

In the event [illegible] Director [illegible] receive [illegible] other information [illegible] communicate [illegible] all [illegible] a branch [illegible] Seattle, this office should be in [illegible]

3 - Bureau
2 - Chicago (157-572)
2 - New Orleans (157-[illegible])
1 - Seattle
OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
(3)

REC- 51 157-2466-101

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-22-80 BY [illegible]

Approved: [illegible]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Report Form
FD-263 (Rev. 5-12-55)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	12/30/65	11/9/65-12/23/65

TITLE OF CASE
DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

REPORT MADE BY
SA [redacted] b7C

CHARACTER OF CASE
RM

NOPORN:

SUMMARY REPORT

REFERENCE:

Report of SA [redacted] at New Orleans dated 10/14/65. b7C

- P -

CC TO: [illegible]
REQ REC'D. [illegible]
APR 1 [illegible] 1967
ANS.
BY: [redacted] b7C

LEADS:

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with individuals in the Deacons for Defense and Justice in order to be aware of their activities.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-22-80 BY [illegible]

ADMINISTRATIVE:

APPROVED | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:
8 - Bureau (157-2466) (RM)
1 - Secret Service, New Orleans (RM)
1 - ONI, New Orleans (RM)
1 - ICG, New Orleans (RM)
1 - OSI, Barksdale AFB (RM)
2 - New Orleans (157-5624)

157-[illegible]-102

8 JAN 4 1963

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SERV.
DEPT: IRD, CID, ESD, CRS
DATE FORW: 1/7/66
HOW FORW: [illegible]
BY: BPM: CJ.

JAN 10 1966

CAUTION: This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside your agency.

NO 157-5624/bab

An extra copy of this report is furnished to the Bureau for dissemination to Secret Service, Washington, D. C., in view of the fact that the subject falls within Category 5(c) of the Agreement Between the FBI and Secret Service concerning Presidential protection.

A copy of this report is being furnished to ICG, ONI and Secret Service, New Orleans, as well as OSI, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, in view of their interest in Klan matters.

(Rev. 11-12-65)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
December 30, 1965

Director
United States Secret Service
Department of the Treasury
Washington, D. C. 20220

Re: Deacons for Defense and Justice, Ferriday, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

The information furnished herewith concerns an individual who is believed to be covered by the agreement between the FBI and Secret Service concerning Presidential protection, and to fall within the category or categories checked.

1. ☐ Has attempted or threatened bodily harm to any government official or employee, including foreign government officials residing in or planning an imminent visit to the U. S., because of his official status.

2. ☐ Has attempted or threatened to redress a grievance against any public official by other than legal means.

3. ☐ Because of background is potentially dangerous; or has been identified as member or participant in communist movement; or has been under active investigation as member of other group or organization inimical to U. S.

4. ☐ U. S. citizens or residents who defect from the U. S. to countries in the Soviet or Chinese Communist blocs and return.

5. ☒ Subversives, ultrarightists, racists and fascists who meet one or more of the following criteria:

   (a) ☐ Evidence of emotional instability (including unstable residence and employment record) or irrational or suicidal behavior:
   (b) ☐ Expressions of strong or violent anti-U. S. sentiment:
   (c) ☒ Prior acts (including arrests or convictions) or conduct or statements indicating a propensity for violence and antipathy toward good order and government.

6. ☐ Individuals involved in illegal bombing or illegal bomb-making.

Photograph ☐ has been furnished ☐ enclosed ☐ is not available
☐ may be available through _____

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

1 - Special Agent in Charge (Enclosure(s)
U. S. Secret Service

Enclosure(s) *(Upon removal of classified enclosures, if any, this transmittal form becomes UNCLASSIFIED.)*

FD-376 (Rev. 6-13-61)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - Secret Service, New Orleans (RM)
1 - OSI, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana (RM)
1 - ONI, New Orleans (RM)
1 - ICG, New Orleans (RM)

Reporting Office: SA [redacted] b7C Office NEW ORLEANS

Date: 12/30/65

File Number: 157-5624 Bufile: 157-2466

Title: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-22-80 BY [illegible]

Character: RACIAL MATTER

Synopsis: Local unit of Deacons at Ferriday, Louisiana has present membership of 23 members. Increase in membership and activities due to recent acts of violence committed against Negroes at Ferriday, Louisiana. Activities include weekly meetings and an all night patrol of the Negro section. Each deacon has at least one weapon and the unit has three semi-automatic Carbines and two walkie-talkies which are used for patroling.

- P -

DETAILS:

On November 9, 1965, [redacted] advised that the Deacons for Defense and Justice at Ferriday, Louisiana has still not gotten off the ground. [redacted] b7c b7c

[redacted] the Deacons were completely disorganized and their membership was nill.

[redacted]

This document [illegible] of any kind. It is the property of the FBI and is [illegible] it and/or its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

NO 157-5624/bab

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted] stated he knew nothing about machine guns which are allegedly in the possession of the Deacons of Defense and Justice at Bogalusa, and Jonesboro, Louisiana. He stated that if he did come across information as to their origin, descriptive data and serial numbers he would furnish this information to the FBI.

FD-529 (10-20-78)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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- [ ] Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- [ ] Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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FBI/DOJ

FBI NEW ORLS

4:24 PM CST 12-23-65 URGENT RRR

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-6-60)

FROM: NEW ORLEANS (157-8011)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

RACIAL SITUATION, BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA. RACIAL MATTER.

REMYLINGS

RE NEW ORLEANS/WIRTEL TO BUREAU, DEC. TWENTY TWO, LAST.

[redacted], ADVISED THIS DATE THAT CHARLES SILAS, PRESIDENT OF THE [redacted] JUSTICE AND MEMBER OF BOGALUSA VOTERS LEAGUE, SUBMITTED A PARADE PERMIT [redacted]. THIS PARADE WOULD BE SPONSORED BY THE BOGALUSA VOTERS LEAGUE SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER TWENTY FOUR, NEXT AT ONE THIRTY PM. [redacted] ADVISED THE PARADE WILL BEGIN AT THE NEGRO LABOR TEMPLE [redacted] PROCEED TO THE CITY HALL AND JAIL AND RETURN TO THE NEGRO LABOR TEMPLE.

b7C
b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] ADVISED THE MARCHERS WOULD BE AFFORDED MAXIMUM POLICE PROTECTION.

END

END-NINE-WORD LIGHT SHOULD BE-AMBR

WA TAKTW

FBI WASH DC

TUP

NOT RECORDED
202 DEC 28 1965

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

0-1 (Rev. 3-5-64)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (Your file 187-3465) DATE: 12/23/65

FROM : Director, FBI (Bufile and Serial 157-2466) Room No. 801 F.B.

☐ Post in file and destroy 0-1 (*For SOG use only*)

SUBJECT : DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-12-82

☐ 1. Bufiles indicate this case is delinquent. Give specific reason for delinquency.

☒ Reurlet 10/26/65.

☐ 2. DATE ☐ airtel ☐ report ☒ letter ☐ letterhead memo ☐ 90-day progress letter ☐ submitted ☒ will be submitted

Reporting employee

☐ 3. If valid reason exists for not submitting report at this time, state reason specifically and when report will be submitted

☒ 4. Status of ☐ Appeal ☐ Inquiry ☒ Investigation ☐ Prosecution

☐ 5. Submit ☐ airtel ☐ report ☐ letter ☐ letterhead memo ☐ 90-day progress letter by

Place reply hereon and return to Bureau. Note receipt and acknowledgment on top serial in case file.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1965 O - 7...

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) DATE: 1/7/66

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

OO: NEW ORLEANS

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau dated 10/25/65, with enclosed letterhead memorandums.

On 12/[redacted] Tax Unit, [redacted] Angeles [redacted] received [redacted] information [redacted] the shipment of machine guns [redacted] the Deacons [redacted]

[redacted] advised that the details of this transaction may take several months to obtain.

In view of the Bureau's interest in this matter, Los Angeles will maintain close contact with ATTU for information concerning this matter.

Los Angeles is placing this case in a pending inactive status, to be opened again in 60 days.

2 - Bureau (RM)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (RM)
1 - Dallas (Info) (RM)
1 - Los Angeles

RNT/pkm
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 gal/ff

REC-6

157-2466-103

3 JAN 10 1966

SUBV. CONTROL

69 JAN 17 1966

(Mod. 5-1-69)

CONFIDENTIAL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	1/10/66	8/10/65-12/21/65

TITLE OF CASE

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka. Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc.

REPORT MADE BY

SA [redacted] b7C

TYPE OF CASE

CHARACTER OF CASE

RM

REFERENCE:

New Orleans report of SA [redacted] b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

LEADS:

CHICAGO DIVISION

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Will maintain contact with sources and informants in order to determine if EARNEST THOMAS organizes a Chapter of the Deacons in that city.

NEW YORK DIVISION

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible]

REASON - FCIM, II, 1-4 [illegible]

DATE OF DECL. 1-10-86

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

157-2466

2-BUREAU (157-2466) (RM)

4-NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

SEE COVER PAGE B FOR OTHER COPIES

1 JAN 13 1966

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

	AGENCY	AGENCY	AGENCY	AGENCY
AGENCY				
REQUEST RECD.				
DATE FWD.				
HOW FWD.				

NOTATIONS

ATTD (Admin) CRS (Admin) INT. SEC.

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

NO 157-3290/cay/med CONFIDENTIAL

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1 - Jackson (RM)
1 - Mobile (157-1017) (RM)
2 - New York (157-1542) (RM)
1 - Savannah (157-731) (RM)
1 - ICG, New Orleans (RM)
1 - Secret Service, New Orleans (RM)

LEADS CONTINUED:

AT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Will, through informants and sources, be alert to any information concerning the Deacons attempting to establish Chapters in that area.

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with informants and sources in order to be aware of the activities of the Deacons in Washington Parish, Louisiana.

AT HOMER, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with leaders of the PDJ in that area.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

157-3290/cay/med

AT JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with [redacted] b7D in order to be aware of pertinent activity on the part of the DDJ.

(2) [redacted]

- C -
(COVER PAGE)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NO 157-3290/cay/mcd

ADMINISTRATIVE

Copies of this report are being furnished to listed offices for informative purposes, inasmuch as there is a possibility that investigation will be requested by these offices.

Copies are being furnished to ICE, New Orleans, and Secret Service, New Orleans and Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, New Orleans, is being advised by separate communication covering the machine gun allegedly in possession of the Defendant.

[redacted] b1

COVER PAGE

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FD-204 (Rev. 2-8-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

Copy to: 1-112TH INTELLIGENCE CORPS GROUP, NEW ORLEANS (RM)
1-SECRET SERVICE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA (RM)

Report of: SA [redacted] b7C Office: NEW ORLEANS
Date: JANUARY 10, 1966

Field Office File No.: 157-3290 Bureau File No.: 157-2466

Title: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

Character: RACIAL MATTERS

Synopsis: [redacted] b1

(C)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 Sch/ff 7-22-85
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 1-10 86

DETAILS:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

CONFIDENTIAL

Classify SP1-1

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NO 157-3290/cay/med

CONFIDENTIAL

Characterizations of Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM), Spartacists, Socialists Workers Party, and the Workers World are attached hereto in the Appendix Section of this report.

CONFIDENTIAL

NO 157-3290/cay

CONFIDENTIAL

ORGANIZATION

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) as on file with the Secretary of State, for the State of Louisiana, reflects that the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. is a Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The location and business office address of its registered office shall be Amos Service Station (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

PURPOSES

"This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes: To instruct, train, teach and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principles of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United State and the State of Louisiana, as well as the constitution and laws of any other State wherein this corporation may operate; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the use value and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation and duties of the citizen to the community and the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen: To further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law.

NO 157-3290/cay

CONFIDENTIAL

CHAPTERS

1. Jonesboro, Louisiana

2. Bogalusa, Louisiana

3. Homer, Louisiana

b1

[redacted] that he understood that Negroes in Plaquemine, Monroe, and Ferriday, Louisiana, had requested assistance in forming DDJ Chapters (c)

On August 20, 1965, [redacted] advised that they had received information that the DDJ had started a chapter in the New Orleans area and that [redacted] was the co-ordinator of this movement in the New Orleans area.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] (c)

b1

On September 9, 1965, information was received from [redacted] that in a conversation with [redacted] the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. was discussed, and [redacted] informed [redacted] that he had attended a meeting concerning this organization, which was held at Tuskegee on or about August 15, 1965. [redacted] advised that [redacted] informed [redacted] that he had attended this meeting, but did not discuss the organization with [redacted], nor admit actual membership in such an organization.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] (c)

b1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] that members (C) of the DDJ from Bogalusa, Louisiana, area had gone to Columbia, Mississippi, to establish a DDJ chapter in that area; and [redacted] that individuals from Holmes County (C) Mississippi, as well as individuals from Columbia, Mississippi, made inquiries concerning the establishment of Deacon Chapters.

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (C)

MEMBERS

[redacted] b1 that the following (C) individuals were members of the Bogalusa Chapter of the DDJ:

CHARLES SIMS, President

ROYAN BURRIS, Vice President

[redacted] former secretary

[redacted] b7C

[redacted]

X

NO 157-3290/cay

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

b7C

On August 20, 1965, [redacted] a self-admitted member of the DDJ, advised that the following individuals were members of the Bogalusa Chapter:

b7C
b7

[redacted]

b7C

[redacted] that [redacted] (c) b1

[redacted] and [redacted] b7

Bogalusa, were members.

[redacted]

b1

[redacted] (c)

CONFIDENTIAL

NO 157-3290/cay

CONFIDENTIAL

FINANCES

[redacted] that the (c) b1
present monetary payment to join the DDJ was $10.00, with a
$2.00 monthly dues payment.

[redacted] b7c b7

[redacted] that he had (c) b1
received information which indicated that at a meeting set
up to formulate plans for the Deacons, it was reported that
there was to be a $10.00 individual initiation fee and a
monthly dues of $2.00. A $100.00 membership fee was indicated
for a Unit to affiliate with the State Organization, and this
$100.00 membership fee was to be used principally for the
purchase of radio and other communications equipment.

[redacted] (c) b1 b7I

[redacted] that, in his opinion, A. Z. YOUNG (c) b1
who is connected with the civil rights movement in Bogalusa
is out to "milk" the civil rights activities in that area
and he further believed that CHARLES SIMS would not be above
siphoning off some of the money obtained ostensibly for the
Deacons for his own personal use.

[redacted] (c) b (c) b

[redacted] b7 b1

[redacted] b1 b7 b7 b1

[redacted] that CHARLES SIMS and ROBERT HICKS, member of the DDJ, had recently been in New York in an effort to raise money for the Deacons, but very little money had been collected [redacted] that it was his understanding that the current plans of the Deacons in Bogalusa were to contact those individuals throughout the U. S. who have been active in fund raising for the Deacons to obtain as much money as possible for the Bogalusa Chapter in order to continue their activities in that community. b1 b1

[redacted] b1

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

b1

WEAPONS

[redacted] (c)

b1

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] b1

(c)

On October 19, 1965, a representative of the Alcohol Tax and Tobacco Unit, U. S. Treasury, at Los Angeles, California, advised that he had received information from [redacted] that the Deacons at Baton [redacted] Louisiana, allegedly received on July 19, 1965, 420 machine guns that had been manufactured in Czechoslovakia.

[redacted] b1

(c)

POSSIBLE VIOLENCE

[redacted] b1

(c)

[redacted] b1

(c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

b1

ASSOCIATION WITH SUBVERSIVE GROUPS

[redacted] (c)

b1

FD-529 (10-20-78)

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FBI/DOJ

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2400)

DATE: 3-28-66

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

Re Chicago letter dated 12/3/65, captioned as MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr., SM-C; Chicago airtel and LHM dated 2/28/66, captioned as above (U), and Bureau 0-1, dated 3/22/66, captioned as above (U).

The sources referred to in referenced letter, with whom Chicago is in constant contact, have provided no information which would indicate that KING, through the SCLC or the Deacons, as alleged by original source of this information, [redacted]. (U)

b7D

The current status of the Deacons is set forth in referenced Chicago LHM of February 28, 1966. Any information obtained by Chicago which appears to have a bearing on this allegation will be expeditiously provided the Bureau and interested [illegible]. (U)

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 [illegible]
ON 1-22-80

3 - Bureau (RM)
(1 - 100-106670) (MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr.)
1 - Atlanta (100-5583) (RM)
1 - New Orleans (157-3290) (RM)
2 - Chicago
(1 - 100-35356) (MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr.)

JCS:mav
(7)

REC-79 157-24[illegible] 118

CONFIDENTIAL

APR 11 1966

NO 157-3290/cay

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] that CHARLES SIMS, President of the DDJ, Bogalusa, Louisiana, spoke at a fund raising affair for the Deacons at the Unitarian Church Hall, Clinton and Filmore Streets, Staten Island, New York, on October 23, 1965. SIMS spoke about the background of the DDJs and the purposes for the organization.

The "Workers World," Volume 7, Number 20, page 3, dated October 14, 1965, containing an article captioned, "President Of Deacons For Defense To Speak In New York," reflected that it was announced by RICTUE LE SEUR, a friend of the Deacons from the newly opened office of the Friends of the DDJ (FDDJ), 271 West 125th, Room 209, New York, New York, that CHARLES SIMS, founder of the DDJ and ROBERT HICKS, Vice President of the BVL will speak in New York on October 23, and October 25, 1965.

The meeting on October 23, 1965, will be at 8:30 PM in the Unitarian Hall, Clinton and Filmore Streets, West Brighton, Staten Island, New York.

On October 25, 1965, a rally will be held at 8:00 PM in Emanuel Church, 37 West 119th Street, New York City

"The Worker," Volume XXX, Number 80, page 2, dated October 24, 1965, contained an article captioned, "Deacons' President To Speak In New York," which set forth substantially the same information as that contained in the "Workers World." "The Worker" is a east coast Communist newspaper.

[redacted]

NO 157-3290/cay

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b1 that an (c) open forum sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party was held at Eugene V. Debs Hall, Room 25, 5927 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. At the conclusion of the meeting, HENRY AUSTAN of Bogalusa, Louisiana, spoke and advised that he was in Cleveland to organize a local "Deacons For Defense" Committee. According to the informant, AUSTAN stated that he is not a non-violent pacifist, but rather he believes in violence on the part of the Negro in order to protect himself, even to the extent of armed violence.

CONFIDENTIAL

MISCELLANEOUS

[redacted] that ROBERT HICKS, President of the Voters League in Bogalusa and a charter member of the Deacons for Defense and Justice (DDJ), and CHARLES SIMS, member of the DDJ in Bogalusa, spoke at a dinner held in Detroit, which dinner was held for the Deacons of Bogalusa, Louisiana, and sponsored by Group on Advanced Leadership. During this meeting HICKS and SIMS talked about the experiences and background of the civil rights struggle in Louisiana and told how the Deacons came into being. At this meeting a collection was taken up for the Deacons and $509.00 was turned over to ROBERT HICKS.

The "Chicago Daily News," a Chicago Illinois, newspaper, issue of October 15, 1965 carried an article captioned "Militent Negroes Here Forming Armed Unit to Fight the Klan." This article went on to relate that EARNEST THOMAS, a Deacons Vice President and full-time paid national organizer, indicated that the Deacons were organizing a Chicago chapter.

On October 25, 1965, [redacted] advised that THOMAS had reportedly attempted to interest various groups and individuals in Chicago in forming a Chicago chapter but had no success in these attempts.

b7C
b7D

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] (c) b1

(c)

1

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT

On November 3, 1964, a source made available a document entitled "The Revolutionary Action Movement Manifesto," the document having been obtained by the source from an individual known to be a member of the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM).

This document stated, in part, that RAM was officially organized in the Winter of 1963 by Afro-American who support the revolutionary objectives of Robert F. Williams, now residing in Cuba, and his concept of organized violence to achieve the liberation of the Afro-American people in the United States. This Manifesto disclosed that RAM had oriented its program to one of education and political revolution and the organization of a "black" political party with revolutionary objectives, having recognized the need for a "black revolution" that could and would seize power. RAM philosophy is described in this document as one of revolutionary nationalism, that is, one involving the struggles of the nonwhite races of the world against exploitation and enslavement by the white capitalist and imperialist nations.

Regarding Williams, it should be noted that on August 28, 1961, a Federal warrant was issued at Charlotte, North Carolina, charging him with Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution for the crime of kidnapping. Subsequent to the issuance of this warrant, Williams fled the United States to Cuba, where he now publishes a monthly newsletter entitled "The Crusader" from Havana.

This source in September, 1964, advised RAM is dedicated to the overthrow of the capitalist system in the United States, by violence if necessary, and to its replacement by a socialistic system oriented toward the Chinese Communist interpretation of Marxism-Leninism. RAM is entirely nonwhite in membership, clandestine in nature, and owes its primary allegiance to the "Bandung World," that is, the nonwhite races of the world rather than to any national entity, as such.

CONFIDENTIAL

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT
2

On November 16, 1964, a second source advised he learned recently from a RAM member that the organization began in Detroit, Michigan, largely under the impetus of Don Freeman described as the "Father" of RAM and referred to as RAM's "Black Stalin." Freeman served as RAM Chairman, with Maxwell Stanford, now of New York City, formerly of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, serving as RAM Field Chairman.

This source stated in May, 1965, there has been no formal headquarters, as such, for RAM but that headquarters have been with Freeman since he has played such a dominant role in the leadership of and has directed the policies and activities of the organization.

Within recent months, according to the second source, dissension within RAM has become evident and some dissatisfaction with Freeman's leadership has arisen. So far as is known, however, he remains the titular leader of RAM.

To date, according to the second source in May, 1965, RAM has organized units and membership in several of the larger cities in the United States east of the Mississippi River and the organization is currently active in attempting to recruit new members and expand its sphere of influence.

APPENDIX

1

CONFIDENTIAL

REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

A source advised on September 9, 1964, that the Revolutionary Committee of the Fourth International (RCFI) was also known as the Spartacist Committee and the Spartacist Group. This source described the RCFI as being composed of former members of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) who had split from the SWP and who were led by James Robertson. This source stated that this political unit has its main center in New York City, where it publishes "Spartacist" on a very irregular basis, but their formal meetings are held at least once a week.

A second source advised on March 4, 1964, that Farrell Dobbs, National Secretary of the SWP, sent a letter to all SWP branches in February, 1964, in which he advised that the expelled leader of a minority faction of the SWP, James Robertson, announced on February 10, 1964, that his faction would publicly criticize the SWP and had followed this with a public organ called "Spartacist" in which they attacked the SWP.

The July-August, 1964, issue of "Spartacist," in its masthead describes this publication as follows: "... published bi-monthly by supporters of the Revolutionary Tendency expelled from the Socialist Workers Party." This masthead sets forth that the editor of the publication is James Robertson, and its main address is Post Office Box 1377, General Post Office, New York, New York.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

APPENDIX

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

APPENDIX

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY -
NEW YORK LOCAL

A source stated on August 25, 1960, that the New York Local (NYL) of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) was founded during 1938 in New York City.

A second confidential source stated on April 8, 1964, that the NYL was affiliated with and followed the aims and purposes of the National SWP.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

CONFIDENTIAL

APPENDIX

"WORKERS WORLD"

On May 3, 1965, a confidential source advised that the "Workers World" is the official newspaper of the Workers World Party, published twice monthly, with editorial offices located at 46 West 21st Street, New York, New York.

APPENDIX

CONFIDENTIAL

New Orleans, Louisiana
January 10, 1966

Title	DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
Character	RACIAL MATTERS
Reference	Report of SA [redacted] b7 dated January 10, 1966, at New Orleans, Louisiana

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FBI

Date: 3/24/66

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code) CONFIDENTIAL

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL (Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, Detroit (157-[redacted])

AFFILIATION OF ERNEST THOMAS, VICE PRESIDENT, DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., JONESBORO, LOUISIANA, SPONSORED BY THE FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIALIST FORUM, DETROIT, MICHIGAN 4/1/66
RE: [illegible]

EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND OTHER OFFICES

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM [illegible] captioned matter. Two copies are being furnished to [illegible] Orleans Office, which is office of origin of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc.

One copy of LHM being furnished G-2, WFO, OSI, [illegible] copies being furnished U.S. Secret Service, Detroit, [illegible]

Contents of the LHM have been made available to [redacted] b7D

[redacted] (C) b1

The Bureau will be advised of the results of [illegible] investigation.

4 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (RM)
(1 - 157-[illegible])
2 - New Orleans (Enc. 8) (RM)
(1 - 157-[illegible])
4 - Detroit
(1 - 157-[illegible] POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)
[redacted] (C) b1
(1 - 157-[illegible])

TDW/[illegible]
(11)

CLASS. & EXT. BY [illegible]
REASON - FCIM II, [illegible]
DATE OF REVIEW 3-24-[illegible]

157-2465-
NOT RECORDED
13 APR 6 1966

ENCLOSURE

53 APR 15 1966

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Please Refer to
File No.

Detroit, Michigan
March 24, 1966

Re: Appearance of Ernest Thomas,
Vice President, Deacons of
Defense and Justice, Incorporated,
Jonesboro, Louisiana, Sponsored
By the Friday Night Socialist Forum,
Detroit, Michigan
April 1, 1966

A characterization of the Friday Night Socialist Forum is contained in the appendix attached hereto.

All unidentified sources utilized in the appendix have furnished reliable information in the past.

On March 23, 1966, a source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that Ernest Thomas, Vice President of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, from Jonesboro, Louisiana, will speak at Detroit, Michigan, on April 1, 1966, at a forum sponsored by the Friday Night Socialist Forum which will be held at 3737 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

The source advised that some of the proceeds derived from this affair would be utilized to assist the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, in connection with their activities in the Louisiana area.

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) as on file with the Secretary of State, for the State of Louisiana, reflects that the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. is a Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The location and business office address of its registered office shall be Amos Service Station (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1gcl/fr

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

Re: Appearance of Ernest Thomas, Etc.

"This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes: To instruct, train, teach and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principals of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Louisiana, as well as the constitution and laws of any other State wherein this corporation may operate; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the use, value and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation and duties of the citizen to the community and the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen: To further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law."

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

APPENDIX

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIALIST FORUM

On May 19, 1965, a source advised that the Friday ht Socialist Forum (FNSF) is a name used by the Detroit, higan Branch of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) in nsoring forums, socials and other functions which are n to the public. Primarily, FNSF pertains to weekly lic forums held at SWP headquarters, for the purpose of eading propaganda of the SWP, developing contacts, ilitating recruitment and members into the SWP, and senting subjects of a controversial nature in the social, itical and economic fields. Usually speakers are members the SWP and they give the socialist viewpoint of the ject discussed. The money collected at these FNSFs goes o the Detroit Branch, SWP treasury.

The SWP has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

FBI

Date: 4/20/66

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (9-2104)

SUBJECT: UNSUB; DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, GRAMBLING, LA.;
[redacted]
VICTIMS
EXTORTION - RACIAL MATTERS
(CO: NEW ORLEANS)

b7C

Re New Orleans airtels 4/14 and 4/15/66.

Enclosed herewith are eight copies of a LHM.

One copy of instant LHM is being designated to the U. S. Attorney, Shreveport, La., ICG and Secret Service, New Orleans.

Final report will be submitted in this matter once the report has been received from the FBI Laboratory concerning the extortion letters to [redacted]

b7C

NOT RECORDED
199 MAY 3 1966

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

MCT-22

REC-81

3- Bureau (Enc. 8)
2- New Orleans

CDN:mln
(5)

APR 22 1966

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-22-80 BY

78 AUG 1966

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

New Orleans, Louisiana
April 20, 1[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

b7C

[redacted] and [redacted] of Gradillas, Louisiana, were interviewed concerning letters they had received from the Secretary of Defense and Justice.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-22-80 BY SPI

ENCLOSURE

FD-529 (10-20-78)

XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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☑ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

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FBI/DOJ

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MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) CONFIDENTIAL DATE: 1/11/66

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-3465) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka; RM

OO: New Orleans

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 jal/jal 7-22
REASON - FCIM II, 1-[illegible]
DATE OF REVIEW 1-11-86

Re Jackson letter to Bureau, 10/26/65 and Jackson letter to San Francisco, 12/13/65, no cc Bureau.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM with two copies for New Orleans and one copy for San Francisco. One copy each is being forwarded to INTC, OSI, ONI, and Secret Service, Jackson.

[redacted] and [redacted] have been advised of results in the LHM.

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] was interviewed by SA [redacted].

An information copy is being submitted to San Francisco in view of their interest in this matter.

2-Bureau (157-2466) (Enc. 8) (RM)
2-New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc. 2) (RM)
1-San Francisco (Enc. 1) (RM)
4-Jackson (157-3465) [redacted] (C) b1
[redacted] (C)

JOI/sjw
(9)

AGENCY: [illegible]
DATE: 1/21/66
HOW FILED: [illegible]
BY: [illegible]

SLIP (S) C
DATE 5/11/55

JAN 17 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

JN 157-3465

LEADS:

CONFIDENTIAL

NEW ORLEANS

At Bogalusa, Louisiana

Will, through sources, continue to advise the Jackson Division of any Deacons reportedly traveling to Mississippi for meetings or attempting to form chapters in Mississippi.

JACKSON

At Jackson, Mississippi

Will maintain contact with sources to obtain background concerning organization of Deacons of Defense and Justice. If chapters in Mississippi organized, will attempt to determine leadership, strength of members, activities, as well as arms acquired.

Will attempt to determine potentiality for violence or any outside influence on members or chapters if formed.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
[illegible], New Orleans
January 14, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS

On November 10, 1965 [redacted] b7c
[redacted], advised b7
a Special Agent of the FBI that he had been informed that on the previous day an individual representing the Deacons for Defense and Justice appeared as a speaker at the College of San Mateo, San Mateo, California. At the time of the speaker's appearance, a handbill was passed out to those in attendance indicating the organization is located at [illegible] Fifth Street, Natchez, Mississippi. A copy of the handbill was made available and it is set forth as follows:

"DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

[illegible] Fifth Street Natchez, Mississipp

[illegible] 1965

[illegible]

[illegible] in Natchez and Adams County, [illegible] necessary for the Negro citizens to organize [illegible] Deacons for Defense of Justice. The purpose [illegible] protect the lives and property [illegible] Freedom Riders, and members [illegible] as the Ku Klux Klan, whose objective [illegible] civil rights by violence, [illegible] and other violence acts.

[illegible] funds to purchase such items as Walkie [illegible], Radio Equipment, Shotgun Equipment and Cars that [illegible] equipped to patrol the Negro neighborhood."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES
Advised by letter
SUBJ (S) CLOSED
DATE 5/31/70

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CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gal/jfr 7-22-8 157-2466-105
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4, 2, 2
DATE OF REVIEW 12-11-86

ENCLOSURE CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS [illegible] DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

CONFIDENTIAL

Any contribution that you give will be greatly appreciated. Make all checks, money orders payable to the Natchez Sportsmen Club. The name "Sportsmen Club" is used in order to obtain a Mississippi state charter.

"Yours truly,

"NATCHEZ CHAPTER OF DEACONS FO
DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

"JAMES JACKSON, PRESIDENT"

[redacted] stated that based on information he had received, no mention was made of purchase of guns in the leaflet, however, during the course of the speaker's appearance, he indicated that any donations received would be used among other things for the purchase of firearms for self defense.

[redacted] stated that the leaflet contained a telephone number 367-7[illegible] which was to be called for further information.

[illegible] November [illegible], 196[illegible] [redacted] College [illegible] advised a special agent of the FBI that on the previous day an individual had appeared as a speaker on the campus from captioned organization. He stated that this appearance had been cleared by the college, however, he [illegible] of the details of the talk.

[redacted] College of San Mateo, advised on [illegible] that on the previous day Thomas Stokes, representing the Deacons for Defense and Justice had appeared as a speaker on the campus. [redacted] stated that this appearance was unsponsored, however, he had been [illegible] by the Chairman of the Faculty-Student Civil

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CONFIDENTIAL

Rights Club and had been in the company of [redacted], a student at the College of San Mateo. [redacted] stated that at the time Stokes requested permission to speak on the campus, a check had been made by the college with responsible personnel of the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Through this organization, they had been advised that the Deacons for Defense and Justice were legitimate and responsible individuals, however, they personally did not agree with the goals or their proposed use of arms for self-defense. As a result, it was decided by college officials to permit Stokes to speak, however, permission to appeal for funds was denied.

[redacted] stated that he was present during the entire speech by Stokes and that after listening to him talk, he was convinced that Stokes was sincere and felt that he made a good impression. He advised that Stokes' statements appeared to be responsible with the exception of one statement in which he indicated that the Ku Klux Klan had infiltrated "every phase of American government." b7C b7D

[redacted] stated that Stokes respected the college's request that he not appeal for funds, however, during the question and answer period did state that the men in the organization carried guns but would not use them first, however, would defend their lives if necessary. Stokes was asked where he obtained firearms and he replied that this information was secret and that he could not tell.

[redacted] further stated that there was no direct statement that donations would be used for the purchase of firearms, however, based on the questions asked Stokes it would be possible for someone to believe this was implied.

FD-529 (10-20-78)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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FBI/DOJ

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted] stated that actually there was no organization of the Deacons of Defense and Justice in the Natchez area. [redacted]

[redacted], Mississippi [redacted] advised on October 29, 1965 that he has made inquiries concerning the Deacons of Defense and Justice and he has received no pertinent information concerning the organization.

[redacted] Walthall County, Mississippi, advised that he has contacted numerous sources in his county and around Tylertown, Mississippi and he has obtained no information that chapters of the Deacons of Defense and Justice are being organized.

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] Lexington, Mississippi, advised on November 18, 1965 that he has received no information that there are any Deacons of Defense and Justice chapters in Holmes County.

[redacted] Hattiesburg, Mississippi, advised on December 13, 1965 there were no chapters of the Deacons of Defense and Justice in Forrest County, Mississippi to his knowledge.

[redacted] that to his knowledge, there are no chapters formed within the State of Mississippi. [redacted] he has obtained no pertinent information regarding the Deacons of Defense and Justice.

[redacted] that there is no Deacons of Defense and Justice organization in the State of Mississippi.

[redacted] that there is no organization or chapters in existence in the State of Mississippi. This source advised he is in daily contact with Negro civil rights workers.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

SAC, New Orleans (157-3290) 1/21/66

Director, FBI (157-2466) 1 - Mr. Murphy

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS

b7C

Rerep of SA [redacted] dated 1/10/66 at New Orleans. Your attention is directed to Part 1, Page 102, FBI Handbook which requires the submission of seven copies of investigative reports regarding racial matters.

It is noted, however, that reports regarding captioned organization are disseminated to seven government agencies at the Seat of Government.

In view of the foregoing, in the future you are instructed to submit to the Bureau nine copies of investigative reports or letterhead memoranda regarding this organization.

BPM:sss
(4)

NOTE:

Deacons of Defense and Justice communications are disseminated at the Seat of Government to the three military intelligence agencies, Civil Rights and Internal Security Divisions of the Department, and the Community Relations Service at the request of that agency.

157-2466-10

EX-1
REC 58

JAN 21 1966

JAN 26 1966
COMM-FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

JAN 26 1966

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) DATE: 1/31/66

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184)(P*)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

OO: New Orleans

Re Los Angeles letter to Bureau dated January 7, 1966; Bureau 0-7 dated January 17, 1966.

Enclosed for the Bureau is an original and seven copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning information received from Agent [redacted] Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, (ATTU) U. S. Treasury Department, Los Angeles. Three copies of the LHM are being designated for the Office of Origin, New Orleans, and one copy for Dallas, inasmuch as the Dallas Office of the ATTU covers Louisiana. One copy each is also being sent to OSI, Maywood, California, FIO, Los Angeles and Secret Service, Los Angeles.

This LHM is being classified confidential because this information could possibly identify the ATTU source.

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau (Encls. 8)(RM)
1 - Dallas (Encl. 1)(RM)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290)(Encls. 3)(RM)
2 - Los Angeles
RNT:maw
(8)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 gal/jf

REC-81

3 FEB 8 1966

AGENT

2/1-2/66

BPM

DEAN CONTROL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Los Angeles, California
January 31, 1966

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEACONS OF DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE

On December 20, 1965, [redacted] representative of the Alcohol and [redacted] Unit, U. S. Treasury Department, Los [redacted] advised that no further i[redacted]on [redacted] the shipment of machin[redacted] [redacted] Czecho[redacted] Firearms Manufacturer to the [redacted] and Justice.

ATF referral

He said that it may take several months to obtain the details of this transaction.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 [illegible]
ON 7-22-80

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~GROUP I~~
~~Excluded from~~ automatic
~~downgrading~~ and
de~~classification~~

ENCLOSURE

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-3022) DATE: JAN 4 1966

FROM: SAC, WFO (157-583)(P)

ALL INFORMATION HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1-22-90 BY SP1 [illegible]

SUBJECT: ORGANIZATION FOR BLACK POWER (OBP)
RM RACIAL MATTERS
(OO:NY)

On 1/7/66, [redacted] (protect identity-has furnished reliable information in the past), advised [redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted]

NOT RECORDED

[redacted]

(3) - Bureau
2 - Chicago (157-678)(RM)
2 - Detroit (157-958)(RM)
2 - New York (157-1469)(RM)
2 - New Orleans (157-)(RM)
2 - Philadelphia (157-1508)(RM)
4 - WFO
(1- 157-528)([redacted])
(1- 157-425)(ACT)
(1- 157-237)(LIAISON)

HHK:dmw
(17)

12 JAN 7 1966

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGA

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI 1/31/68

FROM: SAC, NEWARK -euc-

SUBJECT: THE DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RM
Newark File 157-1922
Bureau File 157-2466

JOHN BROWN COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE
IS - C
Newark File 100-48717
Bureau File 100-

Re Pittsburgh airtel to Bureau dated 11/15/65.

[redacted] b1

3 - Bureau (RM)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (RM)
2 - Pittsburgh (157-429) (RM)
1 - New York (157-1542) (Info) (RM)
2 - Newark
JRL:ks
(10)

REC-10 157-4136-10

FEB 2 1968

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gsh/fk 7-22-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 1-31-86

CONFIDENTIAL

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 1/31/66

Transmit the following in CONFIDENTIAL
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)
(157-)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)
(157-840)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RM
(ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] b7C
RM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Remyaitel to Bureau, 12/10/65; and report of SA [redacted] 1/10/66, at New Orleans captioned, "DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED, aka - RM." b7C

On the dates indicated, the following advised that no information has been developed which would indicate that a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., (DDJ), has been formed in Chicago. They also advised that there has been no indication that EARNEST THOMAS, who is associated with the DDJ is presently in Chicago, nor has there been any indication that he has been in Chicago within the past several months:

4 - Bureau (RM)
(1 - 157-) ([redacted]) b7C
3 - New Orleans (157-3290) (DDJ) (RM)
(1 - 157-) ([redacted])
2 - WFO (Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc.) (RM)
3 - Chicago
(1 - 157-413)

REC-9 2466

FEB 2 1966

LGR:keh
(12)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.[illegible]
DATE OF REVIEW 1-31-[illegible]

FEB 10 1966

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(C) [redacted] b1

LEADS

NEW ORLEANS

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA. Will furnish Chicago any information received concerning any indication that a chapter of the DDJ may be organized in Chicago.

WASHINGTON FIELD

AT WASHINGTON, D. C. By letter to the Bureau dated 1/5/66, from Washington Field captioned, "Organization for Black Power - RM", Washington Field advised that on 12/15/65, [redacted] (protect identity), who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that the DDJ had recently organized an office in Chicago. b7C b7D

Washington Field re-interview [redacted] concerning any information that he has which would indicate that a chapter of the DDJ has actually been formed in Chicago.

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will continue to be alert for any information concerning the opening of a Chicago chapter of the DDJ, and the Bureau and New Orleans will be kept fully informed of developments in this matter.

CONFIDENTIAL

2/4/66

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, WFO

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RM
Bufile 157-2466
WFO file 157-794 (P)

[redacted] b7c
RM
Bufile 157-
WFO file 157-801 (P)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-22-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

ReChicago airtel dated 1/31/66 [illegible]
On 2/4/66, [redacted]
who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised as follows:

[redacted] b7c

(5) - Bureau
(1-157-3022) (OBP)
8 - Chicago (RM)
(1-157-572) (DODJ) (157-678) (OBP)
(1-157-840) ([redacted]) (157- XACT)
4 - New Orleans (RM)
(1-157-3290) (DODJ)
(1-157-) ([redacted] b7c
4 - New York (RM)
(1-100-91911) ([redacted])
(1-157-1469) (OBP)

2 - Philadelphia ([illegible])
(1-157-1508) ([illegible])
7 - WFO
(1-157-52[illegible]) ([redacted] b7c
(1-157-277) (LIAISON MC JHOES
(1-157-16[illegible]) ([illegible])
(1-157-42[illegible]) ([illegible])
([illegible]) (OBP)

EX 109 REC-6
[illegible] FEB 10 1966
(2[illegible]) 157-2466-10

ATCM:

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

57 FEB 21 1966

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

Copy of this being sent Philadelphia [redacted]

LEAD

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

AT WASHINGTON, D.C. Contact will be [illegible] to work [redacted] to ascertain [redacted] be prepared to furnish when completed.

WFO will submit information [illegible] [redacted]

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

I-3 (Rev. 1-27-66)

DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☒ RADIO ☐ TELETYPE

R-1

URGENT 2-8-66 7:01PM

TO DIRECTOR

FROM NEW ORLEANS 082322

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

SPEECH MATTERS.

LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 4, 1966 RECEIVED NEW ORLEANS OFFICE FEBRUARY 8, 1966 FROM EXECUTIVE SECRETARY JOSEPH [illegible] JR., DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, REQUESTING SAC OR SOMEONE FROM "YOUR LEGAL STAFF REPRESENT YOU" AT A PUBLIC DEBATE ON LAW AND CITIZENSHIP ON FEBRUARY [illegible], NEW ORLEANS. LETTER STATED SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, THE MAYOR, ~~CORE~~, ~~NAACP~~ AND MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE PRESENT.

THIS LETTER BEING ORALLY ACKNOWLEDGED, ADVISING MR. HENRY [illegible] DUE TO HEAVY WORK COMMITMENTS I WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND OR SEND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FBI AND HE WILL BE OFFER COPIES OF THE PAMPHLET "THE FBI, GUARDIAN OF CIVIL RIGHTS". [illegible]

RECEIVED: 7:24PM DLH

[illegible]

[illegible]

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be [illegible] paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NO

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS AND JUSTICE, INFORMATION
FBI
(FILE: 187-2000)
(NO FILE 187-704) (REC)

[redacted] b7C
FBI
(FILE 187-)
(NO FILE 282-[illegible]) (P)

[redacted]

On [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] identity.

b
b

b7C

NLC-83

ST-104

FEB 24 1986

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

U. C. Wick

WFO 157-784

[redacted]

[redacted] stated there are no DDJ [illegible] organization in Washington, D. C. No further investigation being conducted regarding the DDJ.

b7C
b7D

LEAD

WASHINGTON FIELD

AT WASHINGTON, D. C. [illegible] [redacted] report concerning [illegible].

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

FBI

Date: 2-28-66

Transmit the following in CONFIDENTIAL

Via AIRTEL (Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)
(157-)

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)
(157-840)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RM
(ORGANIZATION)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

[redacted] b7C

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.402 2
DATE OF REVIEW 2-28-86

Remyairtels to Bureau dated 12/10/65, and 1/31/66, and Washington Field airtel to the Bureau dated 2/17/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of a LHM, three copies for New Orleans, and two copies for Washington Field concerning captioned matter.

Referenced Washington Field airtel advised that information was received on 2/16/66, that [illegible] of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, [illegible] had an office at 4658 Cermak, Chicago, Illinois, Phone [illegible] 521-6413. There is no Cremak Road [illegible] and this apparently should be Cermak Road.

A telephone call to Chicago telephone number 521-6413 was made by SA [redacted] on [illegible], and an operator advised that this number [illegible] and all calls for this number are being taken by [redacted] b7C

- Bureau (Encl. 9) (RM) (1 - 157-[redacted])
3 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Info.) (Encl. 3) (RM)
(Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated)
(1 - 157-[redacted])
2 - Washington Field (Encl. 2) (RM) (Info.)
(1 - 157-791) (RM) (Info.) (1 - 157-[redacted])
3 - Chicago (1 - 157-413)
LCR:[illegible]
(12)

REC-133 157-2466-[illegible]

EX-CLOSURE

MAR 2 1966

Approved: [illegible] Sent [illegible] Per [illegible]
Special Agent in Charge

5 5 MAR 11 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

On 2/24/66, [redacted] advised SAs [redacted] and [redacted] that [redacted] there is no office of the DDJ at 4054 West Cermak Road and EARNEST THOMAS has never resided at this address and he is not personally acquainted with THOMAS. [redacted] stated that on several occasions he had noticed that [redacted] had received mail from EARNEST THOMAS and literature concerning the DDJ.

b7C
b7D

Chicago files reveal the following: [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

FD-529 (10-20-78)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☑ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1), (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consulation to the following government agency(ies); _____ _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

_____

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

CONFIDENTIAL

One copy of this LHM is being designated for Region 113th INTC Group; United States Secret Service, and USA, all Chicago, Illinois.

LEAD

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will be alert for any information concerning the opening of the Chicago chapter of the DDJ and the Bureau and New Orleans will be kept fully informed of all developments in this matter.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Chicago, Illinois
February 28, 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] b7C
RACIAL MATTERS

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES

Reference is made to Chicago Memorandum dated December 10, 1965, at Chicago, Illinois.

b1
[redacted] (C)

Earnest Thomas, Vice-President and Regional Organizer of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated (DDJ), was the speaker at the meeting of the Friday Night Socialist Forum (FNSF) held on February 18, 1966, at Chicago, Illinois.

Thomas stated that the DDJ was formed at Jonesboro, Louisiana, in July, 1964, for the purpose of protecting Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) workers in Louisiana who were being beaten and sometimes murdered by the "red necked sheriffs". Thomas said that in one week the DDJ had 500 armed Deacons.

Thomas referred to the civil rights movement as a "game" and said that he cannot understand why people demonstrate for their rights and say they should take what is rightfully theirs. Thomas [illegible] how people should take what is rightfully theirs.

Thomas said that the anti-poverty legislation was enacted just to placate and "sugar coat" the Negro. The only people who will benefit from this legislation are the politicians; they get the cream while the masses get the skim milk". He ridiculed education as being the [illegible] of the

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 Jpd jfk 7-22-8
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2 4-2
DATE OF REVIEW 2-28-86

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE

Negro problem because he knows that many Negroes with college degrees are nothing but janitors.

Thomas claimed that 50% of the soldiers in Vietnam are Negroes and stated "I guess the power structure feels if they can kill off seven or eight million or as that will solve the problem." The power structure ought to arm the Negroes in the South and solve the problems there before taking on international problems.

Thomas stated that he foresees a black revolution in Chicago this summer and that the Federal Government better do something to solve the problems of the Negroes or it will not be safe for white people to go through Negro neighborhoods. He mentioned the Watts Riot in Los Angeles and said the Jews were exploiting the Negroes and the Negroes probably burned stores and records so that the Jews would not know what Negroes owed money to them.

Thomas said that Chicago is going to be the regional headquarters for the northern area of the DDJ and stated they have 62 chapters of the DDJ strategically located so that whenever necessary they can apply pressure if necessary. He said they have a broad base of operations and if he is killed there will be someone to take over the leadership. He said that if he was killed there will be a retaliatory act, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth and for every [illegible] that are killed, three of the best white [illegible] that they are not going to bow to the power structure or anyone else.

A characterization on the DDJ is [illegible] appendix pages of this memorandum.

On February 24, 1966, [redacted] advised that no information has been developed which would indicate that a chapter of the DDJ has been formed in Chicago or that the DDJ has obtained any office space in Chicago. He also stated that

b7C
b7D

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, CONFIDENTIAL
[redacted] b7C

Earnest Thomas reportedly is in and out of Chicago frequently and is not known to have any permanant residence in Chicago.

Confidential informants who are acquainted with certain racial matters in the Chicago, Illinois, area advised during February, 1966, that no information has been developed which would indicate that a chapter of the DDJ has been formed in Chicago or that the DDJ has obtained any office space in Chicago."

CONFIDENTIAL

1

APPENDIX

CONFIDENTIAL

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIALIST FORUM,
Aka. Militant Labor Forum

On May 3, 1965, a source advised that the Forum is a paper organization set up by the Chicago Branch, Socialist Workers Party (CBSWP), Chicago, Illinois, for Socialist Workers Party (SWP) members and sympathizers. Open meetings held under the auspices of this Forum are geared to the activities that the SWP is pursuing at a particular time, e.g., unemployment, election campaign, Cuba, segregation, etc.

SUZANNE BUCH, a CBSWP member, is in charge of the Forum and schedules meetings under the name of the Forum in order to conceal the SWP sponsorship of same. The meetings of the Forum generally are held at Chicago SWP headquarters although the Forum, in the past, has sponsored other affairs, such as meetings, socials and picnics held at other locations.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

APPENDIX

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

1

APPENDIX

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY,
CHICAGO BRANCH

On May 3, 1965, a source advised that it was his understanding that the currently active Chicago Branch of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) was one of the founding branches of the SWP at a 1938 Chicago Trotskyist Convention, and it follows the aims and principles of the SWP which maintains national headquarters in New York City.

Members of the Chicago Branch serve on the SWP National Committee, and per capita membership dues and a sustaining fund quota are sent by this branch on a monthly basis to SWP National Headquarters.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

This document [illegible] conclu[illegible] FBI a[illegible] are not to be disseminated outside your agency.

APPENDIX

CONFIDENTIAL

FD-323 (Rev. 11-20-61)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Chicago, Illinois
February 25, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. Chicago File 157-572

CONFIDENTIAL

Title DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
BARNEST THOMAS

Character RACIAL MATTERS

Reference Chicago letterhead memorandum dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

[redacted] is [redacted] b1 b7

CONFIDENTIAL

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

SAC, Washington Field (157-794) 3/9/6

Director, FBI (157- 2466) 1 - Mr. Murphy

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS

Enclosed is a copy of an article appearing on Page B-5 of the February 27, 1966, edition of "The Evening Star," published in Washington, D. C., which notes the plan of captioned organization to form an armed chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice in Washington, D. C.

Enclosed article notes that Julius Hobson [illegible] as coordinator of the chapter which is to be [illegible] summer. Hobson is the leader of the Washington [illegible] Associated Community Teams (ACT).

[redacted] b7C

Enclosure
1 - New Orleans (157-3290)

NOTE:

The Deacons of Defense and Justice is an armed Negro organization organized in Louisiana for protection against Klan violence. The Deacons have also been active in racial demonstrations in Bogalusa, Louisiana. [redacted] b7C

Associated Community Teams is a militant civil rights organization

BPM:deh
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 SJE/ABJ

MAILED 3
MAR 9 1966
COMM-FBI

EX-105

157-2466-17

MAR 10 1966

MAR 17 1966

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

SAC, New Orleans 3/14/66

Director, FBI (157-2466)
(100-441758)
(100-387728)

1 - Mr. Rushing

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS

SPARTICIST
SECURITY MATTER - SWP

[redacted] b7C

INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-22-80 BY SP4 JRM/JC

[redacted] and [redacted] called at the Bureau on 3/10/66 and expressed concern over what they termed a close liaison between Sparticist and the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated. b7C b7D

[redacted] said that his sources had indicated that Sparticist is collaborating with and helping to finance the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated. He noted also that Sparticist had made frequent favorable references to Robert F. Williams. Williams is a Negro racist who fled to Cuba in August, 1961, to avoid a kidnapping trial and is now a Bureau fugitive. He has since carried on a violently anti-United States propaganda campaign through a radio program called "Radio Free Dixie," which is broadcast into the southern part of the United States from Cuba, and through the publication of a newsletter entitled "The Crusader," which is introduced into the United States through a source in Toronto, Canada. [redacted]

MAR 15 1966
COMM-FBI

[redacted] speculated that Sparticist may be receiving funds from Cuba through Williams and he wanted to know if Williams' broadcasts revealed any favorable comments regarding Sparticist and the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, in Louisiana. He wondered if any public source material was available concerning the above.

157-[illegible]-66-[illegible]

TDR:fhd (8)

REC-83

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

MAR 17 1966

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Letter to New Orleans
RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

SPARTICIST

[redacted] b7C

157-2466
100-441758
100-387728

Contact [redacted] and advise him that based upon available information regarding the Williams' broadcasts no comments appear concerning either Sparticist or the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated. At that time, advise [redacted] that we would like any information he has available regarding Sparticist and the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, that would be of interest to this Bureau. Properly caption any information furnished. b7C b7D

NOTE:

[redacted] and [redacted] called at the Bureau and furnished the above information to Inspector [redacted] and Section Chief [redacted].

FBI

Date: 3/16/66

Transmit [illegible] in [illegible]

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, WFO (157-794)(P)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-[illegible]

ReBulet dated 3/9/66. Also reWFOlet and LHM captioned "ASSOCIATED COMMUNITY TEAMS (ACT); RACIAL MATTERS", both dated 3/14/66, and 3/16/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of an LHM also two copies to Chicago and four copies to New Orleans.

Copies of LHM being disseminated to Secret Service, local military intelligence agencies and AUSA.

LEAD [redacted] is the LHM source.

b7C
b7D

WASHINGTON FIELD

AT WASHINGTON, D.C. Will maintain contact with [redacted] regarding "Deacons For Defense".

REC-32

3 - Bureau (Enc. 9)
2 - Chicago (Enc. 2)(157-572)(RM)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290)(Enc. 2)(RM)
5 - WFO
(1-157-801)([redacted])
(1-157-237)(LIAISON SOURCES)
(1-157-425)(ACT)
(1-157-528)([redacted])

b7C

HHK:lam
(12)

AGENT: [illegible]

DATE: 3/21/66

AIRTEL

Approved: [illegible] Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

ICCATYLHM902940

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Washington, D. C. 20535

March 16, 1966

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED (DDJ)

The source mentioned in this memorandum has furnished reliable information in the past.

"The Sunday Star", a weekly Washington, D. C., newspaper, issued February 27, 1966, page B-5, had an article captioned "Negroes Plan Armed Unit On Rights". The article stated the "Deacons for Defense and Justice" (DDJ), planned to form an armed chapter of the DDJ in Washington, D. C., with Julius Hobson, leader of a Washington organization called Associated Community Teams (ACT), as acting coordinator of the new chapter of DDJ. This had been announced at a meeting held in Radio Station WUST Music Hall, Washington, D. C., on February [illegible], 1966.

The March 13, 1966, issue of "The Washington Post", a weekly Washington, D. C., newspaper, on page B-6, had an article captioned "Brutality, Laid To Police By Pickets".

The above article reported that eight members of the Washington, D. C., group of ACT, picketed the Fifth Precinct, 500 E Street, S. E., of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), on March 12, 1966. Julius Hobson, Chairman of ACT led the pickets and according to the article, stated the eight pickets were ACT members and that two of them also belonged to "Deacons For Defense". The two "Deacons" were helping the forming of a Washington chapter to protest police brutality, according to Hobson's comments.

On March 15, 1966, a source advised that Julius Hobson, Chairman of the Washington, D. C., chapter of ACT is of the following opinion regarding the "Deacons For

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

157-2466-11[illegible]

Defense" mentioned in the two newspaper articles:

Some of the comments made on February 26, 1966, at the rally sponsored by ACT at the WUST Radio Hall were deliberately made to create the impression that the "Deacons For Defense" would organize in Washington, D. C., with Hobson as acting coordinator. There is no "Deacons For Defense" organization in Washington, D. C, nor is such a group to be organized in D. C. An understanding to that fact exists between Ernest Thomas, a leader of the "Deacons For Defense", Chicago, Illinois, and Julius W. Hobson. Thomas would like to organize such a group in D. C, but will abide by Hobson's desires that the Deacons stay out of the D. C. area. Hobson does not want a group that advocates arming its members.

The source stated further as follows:

Julius Hobson was one of the eight ACT pickets who marched in front of the Fifth Precinct Station of the MPD, on March 12, 1966, protesting police brutality in Precinct Number Five. Hobson was very angry concerning the incorrect information attributed to Hobson in the "Washington Post" issue of March 13, 1966, page B-3. The article indicated Hobson had said two of the eight ACT members were members of the "Deacons For Defense" and were to form a Washington chapter of the "Deacons For Defense". Hobson denied ever making such a statement to a newsman or anyone else. Hobson stated ACT, to his knowledge, has no members who belong to "Deacons For Defense" or which Ernest Thomas is an organizer.

The source also recalled as follows:

Recently a Negro family in MPD Precinct Number Five, had a wedding reception. Members of the MPD forced their way into the reception and created a disturbance while making arrests. This resulted in accusations that the MPD used brutality. "High Up" officials of the MPD

then refused to hold a hearing to determine whether the police were at fault. The general feeling among Negroes is that the MPD should have an open hearing regarding the foregoing incident in order to bring out the true facts. The Negroes in the MPD Precinct Number Five, feel the MPD officials have "white washed" the entire incident. ACT plans to demonstrate at Precinct Number Five on March 19, 1966, in furtherance of ACT's protest against the "police brutality" as displayed at the wedding reception. The protests will continue until the MPD agrees to discuss "Police Brutality".

ACT does not desire a large number of pickets at Precinct Number Five. A large group is difficult to control and could get out of hand. ACT desires that only ACT members, willing to abide by Hobson, will be welcome to future picket lines.

The source also stated as follows:

The references to ACT and Deacons For Defense on the signs carried by the ACT pickets on March 12, 1966, were made to create a feeling that the "Deacons" are coming to D. C. to organize. This hint of possible alliance was deliberate and psychological which had the approval of Ernest Thomas. It does not exist. Hobson believes these hints may bring about changes in the attitudes displayed by the privileged toward those less fortunate as it regards jobs, housing, freedom from police brutality.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES G[illegible]R[illegible]ENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2[illegible]66) (100-441758) (100-387728)

DATE: [illegible]/23/66

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290) (100-17230) (88-3588)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS

SPARTICIST
SECURITY MATTER - SWP

[redacted]

INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE [illegible]

Re Bureau letter 3/14/66.

[redacted]

contacted on March 21, 1966, by SA [redacted] and [redacted] was advised that based upon available information regarding the broadcasts of [illegible] no comments appear concerning [illegible] or the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated. [redacted] was also advised that the Bureau would like to have any information he has available regarding the Sparticist and the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, that would be of interest to the Bureau.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] stated that if he received any information he felt was of interest to the Bureau he would be happy to make the information available to the Bureau. He stated that he was trying to obtain information regarding the Sparticists and had received some information from the House Committee (Committee on Un-American Activities) on March [illegible], 1966. He did not state what the information was, but appeared to be a clipping from a newspaper and a copy of a publication apparently put out by the Sparticist.

[redacted] asked that the following be specifically called to the attention of [redacted] and stated that [redacted]

REC 5 [illegible]-466

2 - Bureau (RM)
2 - New Orleans

EBJ/cmg
(4)

MAR 24 1966

APR 11

NO 157-3290
EBL:cmg

stand; he, [redacted], has "learned since in Washington, D. C., through a source, that the big money shipment came into country from Canada several months ago and ended up in Atlanta, Ga." b7C b7D

Any information furnished by [redacted] will be submitted to the Bureau under appropriate caption.

[redacted] b7C

FD-365 (Rev. 5-14-64)

FBI

Date: 3/15/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL — AIR MAIL
(Priority)

To: Director, FBI

Att.: Civil Rights Section
General Investigative Division

From: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (157-1515) - P -

RE: DEFENSE

Subject: [redacted] aka b7C

☐ BOMBING MATTERS - THREATS ☒ RACIAL MATTERS

Enclosed are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum.

Two copies of above LHM are being enclosed for New York, Atlanta, Louisville and New Orleans.

Copies of this LHM were also furnished INTC, OSI, ONI and Secret Service, Birmingham.

AGENCY: (OSI, ONI, SECRET SERVICE)

DATE RECEIVED: 3/21/66

FORM: RS

BY: ALS

ST-107

1 - Bureau (Enclosures 8)
1 - New York (Enc. 2)(Info)
1 - New Orleans (Enc. 2)(Info)
2 - Birmingham (157-1515)
ALK/gah
(7)

1 - Atlanta (Enc. 2)(Info)
1 - Louisville (Enc. 2) (Info)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

51 APR 5 1966

Approved: _____ Sent 7-21-50 M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1400 - 2121 Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
March 15, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

b7C

[redacted] also known as

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

On December 13, 1965, [redacted] made available literature in the possession of the subject, known member of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, and the names and addresses of the following organizations are being set forth, where available: b7C b7D

JOHN BROWN COMMORATION COMMITTEE
100 West 82nd Street
New York 24, New York
Telephone 362-4954

Officers: C.P.

Dorothy Pitman - Chairman

Jacqueline Frieder - Secretary

Deloris Costello - Treasurer

William Pitman - Co-ordinator

Partial List of Sponsors:

[redacted] b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 pal/pr

157-2466-1

ENCLOSURE

Re: [redacted] b7C
Deacons for Defense and Justice

[redacted]

b7C

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

Henry Robert Austan, Bogalusa, Louisiana

Charles Sims, Bogalusa, Louisiana

Address for DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
New York Chapter
271 West 125th Street
New York 27, New York

Re: [redacted] b7C
Deacons for Defense and Justice

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FD-263 (Rev. 9-17-65)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	3/28/66	11/10/65 - 3/15/66

TITLE OF CASE

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka. Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc.

REPORT MADE BY

SA [redacted] b7C

CHARACTER OF CASE

RM

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

REFERENCE

Report of SA [redacted] b7C dated 1/10/66 at New Orleans.

-P-

LEADS

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP 1 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM-II, 1-7-65
DATE OF REVIEW 3-28-92

AT BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA

Will continue to maintain contact with informants and sources in order to follow pertinent activity of the DDJ.

AT JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with informants and sources and follow pertinent activities of the DDJ.

Case has been: Pending over one year ☐ Yes ☐ No; Pending prosecution over six months ☐ Yes ☐

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

157 [illegible] 10 REC-

COPIES MADE:

9 - BUREAU (157-2466) (RM)

5 - NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

SEE COVER PAGE B FOR OTHER COPIES

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	AGENCY	AGR. CIA, ONI, SEC. SER., CRD, NAD, TRS
Request Recd.		
Date Fwd.	DATE FWD.	4/6
How Fwd.	HOW FWD.	
By	BY:	

Notations

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND INTERESTED OFFICES ADVISED BY TELETYPE SLIP (SEE ATTACHED) DATE

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55 APR 21 1966

1 ENCL 902940

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(C)

b1

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NO 157-32
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INFORMANTS (CONTINUED) CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

(c) [redacted]

(request)

[redacted]

b1

ADMINISTRATIVE

This report is being classified confidential because information furnished by ATTU could possibly [illegible] the ATTU source. The report is also classified confidential because information contained therein has been drawn from a confidentially classified report of the DIO, First Naval District, Boston, Massachusetts.

The overlap in the investigative period as related to referenced report was necessitated by the receipt of information from auxiliary offices after referenced report was prepared.

C

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NO 157-3290
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Information copies of this report are furnished to the designated offices because these offices are either currently conducting investigation into local chapters of the DDJ or it is anticipated that these offices will have investigative activity in the future. Leads in this connection are being handled between auxiliary offices and the Office of Origin as required.

Copies of this report are being furnished to ICG and Secret Service, New Orleans.

D*

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FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Copy to: 1 - ICG, New Orleans (RM)
1 - Secret Service, New Orleans (RM)

Report of: SA [redacted] b7C Office: NEW ORLEANS
Date: March 28, 1966

Field Office File No.: NO 157-3290 Bureau File No.: 157-2466

Title: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

Character: RACIAL MATTERS

Synopsis: [redacted] b1

-P-

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY SLIP (S) DATE 4/14/80

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gcl 1-ft 7-23-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 3-28-86

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED FROM CONFIDENTIAL TO UNCLASSIFIED
FOR REASON SHOWN
CINCLASSIFIED

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DETAILS

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Characterizations of the organizations [illegible] herein are a part of the appendix section of this report.

CHAPTERS OF THE DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. (DDJ)

Bogalusa, Louisiana, Chapter

[redacted] b1 that the DDJ (C) chapter in Bogalusa has the following active members: CHARLIE SIMS, President; ROYANN BURRIS, Vice President; [redacted] b7

[redacted] b1 (C)

[redacted] b1 [illegible] DDJ (C) in Bogalusa and Jonesboro have been [illegible] presently making an attempt to regain [illegible] interests of the DDJ.

[redacted] b1 President of the DDJ in Jonesboro, Louisiana, [illegible] (C) the Jonesboro chapter.

Ferriday, Louisiana, Chapter

[redacted] b1 (C)

[redacted] b7 b

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[redacted] said that for the past six or seven weeks, the Ferriday chapter has not been too active and that about the only thing that the Deacons have been doing prior to that time was patroling the Negro area at nighttime. [redacted] said that during the past month or so, no one wanted to patrol the area at nighttime because they were wasting money on gas. [redacted] said that the chapter has financial problems and has been unable to buy gas to enable the members to patrol. [redacted] said that to his knowledge, the Ferriday chapter has had no meetings during the past month and that it appears to him that the chapter will not stay together for any length of time.

b
b

Homer, Louisiana, chapter

On January 5, 1966 [redacted] at Homer, Louisiana, advised on January 5, 1966 that the last meeting of the DDJ at Homer was on December 14, 1965. He said that there were only a few men at this meeting. He stated [redacted] that no weapons of any kind have been purchased.

[redacted] on March 4, 1966 stated that the chapter has been very inactive and that a meeting scheduled for February 8, 1966 had been canceled due to bad weather and lack of interest. [redacted] stated that the organization does not own any guns, and there are no plans to purchase any guns.

Minden, Louisiana, Chapter

[redacted] Minden, Louisiana, advised on January 18, 1966 that there was [illegible] of the DDJ in Minden. [redacted]

On March 2, 1966 [redacted] advised that the Minden chapter of the DDJ was organized on January 1, 1966 and that the chapter has weekly meetings at the headquarters of the Congress Of Racial Equality (CORE) in Minden.

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[redacted] stated that he has been informed by the DDJ leaders in Jonesboro, Louisiana, that a charter will be filed for the Minden chapter. He further stated that the chapter does not own any firearms and has no intention of purchasing any weapons and that the main purpose of the chapter is to assist local police by observing Civil Rights activities and furnishing the names or license numbers of anyone who bothers Civil Rights workers.

New Orleans, Louisiana, Chapter

[redacted] (c)

Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, Chapter

[redacted] b1 that there is (c) no chapter of the DDJ in Plaquemines Parish as yet but that [redacted] of Bootville, Louisiana, is attempting to organize a chapter. c/ b1

[redacted] b1 that [redacted] (c) b7c [redacted] and ATHELY WOOD, head of the New Orleans chapter, have attempted to organize a chapter in Plaquemines Parish and that if successful, the chapter would probably be located at Buras, Louisiana.

Tallulah, Louisiana, Chapter

[redacted] b1 that a chapter (c) of the DDJ has been established at Tallulah but that he had no further information about this chapter.

On February 23, 1966 [redacted] advised there is no chapter of the DDJ in Tallulah.

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[redacted] stated that in June, 1965, ERNEST THOMAS, Jonesboro, Louisiana, attempted to organize a DDJ Chapter at Tallulah [redacted] told THOMAS there was no need for a chapter since the Negroes could rely on the local police to take whatever action which would be appropriate.

Attempts to organize DDJ chapters in Mississippi

[redacted] that there are currently three areas in Mississippi where attempts are being made to form chapters of the DDJ; namely, Hinds County, Holmes County, and Edwards, Mississippi. [redacted] that CHARLES SIMS, ROYANN BURRIS, [redacted], and [redacted], all members of the DDJ in Bogalusa, have visited the above areas, in Mississippi, for the purpose of forming a DDJ chapter. [redacted] that the Jonesboro chapter of the DDJ was the chapter designated to form other chapters outside of Louisiana and that there appeared to be a power struggle between Jonesboro and Bogalusa chapters with regard to forming chapters in Mississippi.

Columbia, Mississippi, Chapter

[redacted] that he understands a chapter of the DDJ has been formed at Columbia, Mississippi, but that he has no further information concerning this chapter.

Natchez, Mississippi, Chapter

[redacted] that a chapter of the DDJ has been formed at Natchez but that he has no further information concerning this chapter.

On November 10, 1965 [redacted] advised a Special Agent of the FBI that he had been informed that on the previous day an individual representing the Deacons For Defense and Justice appeared as a speaker at the College of San Mateo, San Mateo, California. At the time of the speaker's appearance, a handbill was passed out to those in attendance indicating the organization is located at 313 North Pine Street, Natchez, Mississippi. A copy of the handbill was made available, and it is set forth as follows:

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"DACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

"319-North Pine Street Natchez, Mississipi

"October 23, 1965

"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

"Because of recent violence in Natchez and Adams County, it became necessary for the Negro citizens to organize a chapter of Deacons for Defense and Justice. The purpose of this organization is to protect the lives and property of the Negro citizens from hooded night riders and members of such organizations as the Ku Klux Klan, whose objective is to deprive the Negro of his civil rights by violence, intimidation, bombing and other violents acts.

"We are in need of funds to purchase such items as Walkie Talkies, Radio Equipment, Uniform Equipment and Cars that are radio equipped to patrol the Negro neighborhood. Any contribution that you give will be greatly appreciated. Make all checks, money orders payable to the Natchez Sportsmen Club. The name "Sportsmen Club" is used in order to obtain a Mississippi state charter.

"Yours truly,

"NATCHEZ CHAPTER OF DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

"JAMES JACKSON, PRESIDENT"

[redacted] stated that based on information he had received, no mention was made of purchase of guns in the leaflet; however, during the course of the speaker's appearance, he indicated that any donations received would be used among other things for the purchase of firearms for self-defense.

[redacted] stated that the leaflet contained a telephone number 369-7747 which was to be called for further information.

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On November 10, 1965 [redacted] College of San Mateo, advised a Special Agent of the FBI that on the previous day an individual had appeared as a speaker on the campus from captioned organization. He stated that the appearance had been cleared by the college; however, he knew nothing of the details of the talk.

[redacted] College of San Mateo, advised on November 10, 1965 that on the previous day Thomas Stokes, representing the Deacons for Defense and Justice had appeared as a speaker on the campus. [redacted] stated that Stokes' appearance was unsponsored; however he had been introduced by the Chairman of the Faculty-Student Civil Rights [illegible] and had been in the company of [redacted] a student at the College of San Mateo. [redacted] stated that at the time Stokes requested permission to speak on the campus, a check had been made by the college with responsible personnel of the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Through this organization, they had been advised that the Deacons for Defense and Justice were legitimate and responsible individuals; however, they personally did not agree with the goals or their position on use of arms for self-defense. As a result, they complied by college officials to permit Stokes to speak; however, permission to appeal for funds was denied.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] stated that he was present during the entire speech by Stokes and that after listening to Stokes, he was convinced that Stokes was sincere and felt that he made a good impression. He advised that Stokes' attitude appeared to be responsible with the exception of one statement in which he indicated that the Ku Klux Klan had infiltrated "every phase of American Government."

[redacted] stated that Stokes respected the officers' request that he not appeal for funds; however, during the question and answer period, he did state that the men in the organization carried but would not use them first but would defend their lives if necessary. Stokes was asked where he obtained firearms, and he replied that this information was secret and that he could not tell.

[redacted] further stated that there was no direct statement that donations would be used for the purchase of firearms; however, based on the questions asked Stokes, it would be possible for someone to believe this was implied.

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DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] stated that actually there was no organization of the Deacons Of Defense and Justice in the Natchez area [redacted]

[redacted] Columbia, Mississippi [redacted] advised on October 29, 1965, that he has made inquiries concerning the Deacons of Defense and Justice and he has received no pertinent information concerning the organization.

[redacted] Walthall County, Mississippi, advised that he has contacted numerous sources in his county and around Tylertown, Mississippi and he has obtained no information that chapters of the Deacons of Defense and Justice are being organized.

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[redacted] b1 that to its (c) knowledge, there are no chapters formed within the state of Mississippi. The source was recontacted on January 7, 1966, and he advised he has obtained no pertinent information regarding the Deacons of Defense and Justice.

[redacted] b1 that there is (c) no Deacons of Defense and Justice organization in the state of Mississippi.

[redacted] b1 that there (c) is no organization or chapters in existence in the state of Mississippi. This source advised he is in daily contact with Negro civil rights workers.

On January 17, 1966 [redacted] b1 stated that there is no local chapter nor has he made any attempt to establish a chapter in the San Mateo County area. [redacted] intended to send funds raised to Natchez. [redacted] stated that the Deacons organization is a protective organization for Negro people in the South, and that it is within the boundaries of law and order and [illegible] law enforcement. He identified the speaker who appeared at the College of San Mateo as JAMES STOKES rather than THOMAS STOKES as was initially reported and stated that STOKES is from Natchez, Mississippi.

Huntsville, Alabama, Chapter

[redacted] b1 that CHARLIE (c) SIMS, President of the DDJ in Bogalusa, has claimed that a chapter of the DDJ has been formed at Huntsville, Alabama. [redacted] he did not know if this was true. (c) b1

Eutaw, Alabama, Chapter

[redacted] b1 (c)

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[redacted]

On January 26, 1966 [redacted] stated that [redacted] had been in Greene County attempting to recruit members for the DDJ movement.

Chicago, Illinois, Chapter

On January 6, 1966 and January 31, 1966, [redacted] advised that there was no information which would indicate that a chapter of the DDJ has been formed in Chicago.

[redacted] b1 that he was not (C) information which would indicate that a chapter of the DDJ had been formed in Chicago.

[redacted] b1 that no (C) information had come to his attention which would indicate that a chapter of the DDJ had been established in Chicago.

[redacted] b1 that he had no (C) information which would indicate that a chapter of the DDJ had been formed in Chicago.

New York, New York, Chapter

The "Workers World", Vol. 7, Number 20, dated October 14, 1965, contained an article indicating that RICTUE (RICQUE) LeSEUR, a friend of the Deacons in New York announced that he had opened an office of the Friends of the Deacons of Defense and Justice at 271 West 125th Street, Room 209, New York City.

[redacted] b (C)

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Cleveland, Ohio, Chapter CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b1

(c)

AUSTAN gave a speech about the Deacons, and a collection was taken up.

[redacted] b1

(c)

[redacted] b1

(c)

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FUND RAISING EFFORTS BY DEACON LEADERS CONFIDENTIAL

A. Association with Subversive Groups
B. Inflammatory Statements by Deacon Leaders

[redacted] that a rally (c) for the DDJ was held on October 25, 1965 at the Emanuel AME Church, 37 West 119th Street, New York. [redacted] that (c) about 300 people were present to hear CHARLES SIMS, head of the DDJ. [redacted] however, that SIMS was not present (c) since it was necessary for him to return to the South for a court appearance on October 25, 1965. b1

[redacted] that on December 17, 1965 CHARLES SIMS spoke to about 75 people at 116 University Place, New York. Source stated that SIMS, who was identified as Chairman of the DDJ, spoke about Negro jobs and Negro voting in the South and that he would return to the South to get on the picket line. Source said that SIMS was relating that his automobile had been broken into and that he had lost all of his clothing. A contribution of $158 was given to SIMS, who said that this money would not go to buy guns. b1

[redacted] that on December 18, 1965 leaflets were being distributed in the Harlem section of New York City, which advertised a speech to be given by CHARLES SIMS, head of the DDJ at the Mt. Morris Presbyterian Church, 122nd Street and Mt. Morris Park on December 18, 1965. b1

[redacted] that on (c) December 3, 1965 the fund raising party for the DDJ was held at the residence of MARY KOCHIYAMA. Source said about 150 people attended a party and that one of the Deacons addressed those present. He described the organization of the DDJ in Bogalusa, Louisiana, and stated that the Negroes had armed themselves in Bogalusa to protect themselves from the Ku Klux Klan. b1

b7

[redacted] advised that on December 10, 1965 a lecture was given on the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and its work in the "Black Belt" (Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia). The speakers were CHARLES SIMS, President of the DDJ, and CLOVE SELLERS, National Officer of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee.

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SIMS described the Deacons as a group organized for the defence of the Negroes against the Klan attacks throughout the South. SIMS, when questioned on the [illegible] of a rebellion by the Negroes in the South, replied that even if he were in favor of a rebellion, the time is not right. SIMS also said that if the Federal, State, and local authorities will not protect the rights of the Negroes in the South, the Deacons would manufacture their own law.

[redacted] b1 that CHARLES (C) SIMS representing the DDJ was guest speaker on a radio program known as "The Listening Post" on radio station WDAS, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. SIMS in his talk stated that while the Deacons will not start trouble, they did not intend to sit down. He stated there were about 40 to 50 chapters of the DDJ and claimed that white brutality and terror will vanish. SIMS stated that if the radio audience desired to contribute, they could send their contribution to CHARLES SIMS, 1220 Oak Street, Bogalusa, Louisiana.

[redacted] b1 that CHARLES (C) SIMS, head of the DDJ, was principal speaker at a meeting held at the residence of MARTHA RICCA, 5758 N. Carne, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on December 13, 1965. Source said that the meeting was not sponsored by any local organization and that about 50 individuals attended the affair. SIMS as principal speaker gave a history of the DDJ since it was formed in March, 1965, and pointed out that since the Deacons have armed themselves in Bogalusa, the Klan has not held any Klan rallies in Bogalusa.

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

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[redacted] (C)

[redacted] that a meeting was held at the Masonic Temple, East 105th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, on December 19, 1965, which featured CHARLES SIMS, a leader of the DDJ. Source stated that DON FREEMAN, chairman of the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM) spoke on self-defense and that SIMS spoke after FREEMAN. Source said that SIMS talked about defending the community and Civil Rights workers and claimed that if the Klan armed themselves, then the Negroes have the right to do the same.

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

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[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted]

[redacted] b1 that HARNEST THOMAS, Vice President and Regional Organizer of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated (DDJ), was the speaker at the meeting of the Friday Night Socialist Forum (FNSF) held on February 18, 1966, at Chicago, Illinois.

THOMAS stated that the DDJ was formed at Jonesboro, Louisiana, in July, 1964, for the purpose of protecting Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) workers in Louisiana who were being beaten and sometimes murdered by the "red necked sheriffs." THOMAS said that in one week the DDJ had 500 armed Negroes.

THOMAS referred to the Civil Rights demonstrations as a "game" and said that he cannot understand people who demonstrate for their rights and said they should take what is rightfully theirs. THOMAS did not specifically mention how people should take what is rightfully theirs.

THOMAS said that the anti-poverty legislation was enacted just to placate and "sugar coat" the Negro. The only people who will benefit from this legislation are the "fat politicians; they get the cream while the masses get the non-fat milk." He ridiculed education as being the solution of the Negro problem because he knows that many Negroes with college degrees are nothing but janitors.

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THOMAS claimed that 50 per cent of the soldiers in Viet Nam are Negroes and stated "I guess the power structure feels if they can kill off seven or eight [illegible] of us that will solve the problem." The power structure ought to arm the Negroes in the South and solve the problems there before taking on international problems.

THOMAS stated that he foresees a black revolution in Chicago this summer and that the Federal Government [illegible] do something to solve the problems of the Negroes or it will not be safe for white people to go through Negro neighborhoods. He mentioned the Watts Riots in Los Angeles and said the Jews were exploiting the Negroes, and the Negroes probably burn stores and records so that the Jews would not know what Negroes owed money to them.

THOMAS said that Chicago is going to be [illegible] headquarters for the northern area of the DDJ and [illegible] have 62 chapters of the DDJ strategically located so that whenever necessary they can apply pressure if necessary. He said they have a broad base of operations and if [illegible] killed, there will be someone to takeover the [illegible] said that if [illegible] killed, there will be a retaliatory act, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and for every one of them that are killed, three of the best whites will [illegible] aided that they are not going to bow to the power [illegible] or anyone else.

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WEAPONS

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On December 20, 1965 a representative [redacted] Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, U.S. Treasury Department, Los Angeles, California, advised that no further information had been received concerning the shipment of machine guns from a Czechoslovakian firearms manufacturer to the DDJ. This was in reference to information received by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit (ATTU) at Los Angeles, California, [redacted] which indicated that the Deacons at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, allegedly received on July 19, 1965, 420 machine guns which had been manufactured in Czechoslovakia. The ATTU representative said it may take several months to obtain the details of this transaction.

[redacted] that [redacted] had learned that there was in existence an article, not further described, which requested individuals to send 10 cents to HENRY AUSTIN, 1210 Ann Street, Bogalusa, Louisiana, to purchase bullets for the DDJ.

b1 (c)

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MISCELLANEOUS

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"The Sunday Star," a weekly Washington, D.C., newspaper, issued February 27, 1966, page B-5, had an article captioned "Negroes Plan Armed Unit On Rights." The article stated the "Deacons for Defense and Justice" (DDJ), planned to form an armed chapter of the DDJ in Washington, D.C., with JULIUS HOBSON, leader of a Washington organization called Associated Community Teams (ACT), as acting coordinator of the new chapter of DDJ. This had been announced at a meeting held in Radio Station WUST Music Hall, Washington,D.C., on February 26, 1966.

The March 13, 1966 issue of "The Washington Post," a weekly Washington,D.C., newspaper, on page B-6, had an article captioned "Brutality, Laid To Police By Pickets."

The above article reported that eight members of the Washington, D.C., group of ACT, picketed the [illegible] Precinct, 500 E Street, S.E., of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), on March 12, 1966. JULIUS HOBSON, Chairman of ACT led the pickets and according to the article, stated the eight pickets were ACT members and that two of them also belonged to "Deacons For Defense." The two "Deacons" were helping the forming of a Washington chapter to protest police brutality, according to HOBSON's comments.

[redacted] that JULIUS HOBSON, Chairman of the Washington,D.C., chapter of ACT is of the following opinion regarding the "Deacons For Defense" mentioned in the two newspaper articles:

Some of the comments made on February 26, 1966, at the rally sponsored by ACT at the WUST Radio Hall were deliberately made to create the impression that the "Deacons For Defense" would organize in Washington,D.C., with HOBSON as acting coordinator. There is no "Deacons For Defense" organization in Washington,D.C., nor is such a group to be organized in D.C. An understanding to that facts exists between ERNEST THOMAS, a leader of the "Deacons For Defense," Chicago, Illinois, and JULIUS W. HOBSON. THOMAS would like to organize such a group in D.C., but will abide by HOBSON's desires that the Deacons stay out of the D.C. area. HOBSON does not want a group that advocates arming its members.

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The source stated further as follows: CONFIDENTIAL

JULIUS HOBSON was one of the eight ACT pickets who marched in front of the Fifth Precinct Station of the MPD, on March 12, 1966, protesting police brutality in Precinct Number Five. HOBSON was very angry concerning the incorrect information attributed to HOBSON in the "Washington Post" issue of March 13, 1966, page B-6 The article indicated HOBSON had said two of the eight ACT members were members of the "Deacons For Defense" and were to form a Washington chapter of the "Deacons For Defense." HOBSON denied ever making such a statement to a newsman or anyone else. HOBSON stated ACT, to his knowledge, has no members who belong to "Deacons For Defense" of which ERNEST THOMAS is an organizer.

The source also recalled as follows:

Recently a Negro family in MPD Precinct Number Five, had a wedding receiption. Members of the MPD forced their way into the reception and created a disturbance while making arrests. This resulted in accusations that the MPD used brutality. "High Up" officials of the MPD then refused to hold a hearing to determine whether the police were at fault. The general feeling among Negroes is that the MPD should have an open hearing regarding the foregoing incident in order to bring out the true facts. The Negroes in the MPD Precinct Number Five, feel the MPD officials have "white washed" the entire incident. ACT plans to demonstrate at Precinct Number Five on March 19, 1966, in furtherance of ACT's protest against the "police brutality" as displayed at the wedding reception. The protests will continue until the MPD agrees to discuss "Police Brutality."

ACT does not desire a large number of pickets at Precinct Number Five. A large group is difficult to control and could get out of hand. ACT desires that only ACT members, willing to abide by HOBSON, will be welcome to future picket lines.

The source also stated as follows:

The references to ACT and Deacons For Defense on the signs carried by the ACT pickets on March 12, 1966, were made to create a feeling that the "Deacons" are coming to D.C. to organize.

NO 157-3290:jmp

CONFIDENTIAL

This hint of possible alliance was deliberate and psychologic[illegible] which had the approval of ERNEST THOMAS. It does not exist. [illegible]ORSON believes these hints may bring about changes in the attitudes displayed by the privileged toward those less fortunate as it regards jobs, housing, freedom from police brutality.

CONFIDENTIAL

1 APPENDIX CONFIDENTIAL

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIALIST FORUM,
aka. Militant Labor Forum

On May 3, 1965, a source advised that the Forum is a paper organization set up by the Chicago Branch, Socialist Workers Party (CBSWP), Chicago, Illinois, for Socialist Workers Party (SWP) members and sympathizers. Open meetings held under the auspices of this Forum are geared to be the activities that the SWP is pursuing at a particular time, e.g., unemployment, election campaign, Cuba, segregation, et

SUZANNE BUCH, a CBSWP member, is in charge of the Forum and schedules meetings under the name of the Forum in order to conceal the SWP sponsorship of same. The meetings of the Forum generally are held at Chicago SWP headquarters although the Forum, in the past, has sponsored other affairs, such as meetings, socials, and picnics held at other locations.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

APPENDIX

CONFIDENTIAL

APPENDIX X

"WORKERS WORLD"

On May 3, 1965, a confidential source advised that the "Workers World" is the official newspaper of the Workers World Party, published twice monthly, with editorial offices located at 46 West 21st Street, New York, New York.

APPENDIX

X

APPENDIX

1

CONFIDENTIAL

NATION OF ISLAM, Formerly Referred to as the Muslim Cult of Islam, Aka. Muhammad's Temples of Islam

In January, 1957, a source advised ELIJAH MUHAMMAD described his organization on a nationwide basis as the "Nation of Islam" and Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

On May 7, 1965, a second source advised ELIJAH MUHAMMAD is the national leader of the Nation of Islam (NOI); Muhammad's Temple of Islam No. 2, 5335 South Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, is the national headquarters of the NOI; and middle MUHAMMAD and other NOI officials, when referring to MUHAMMAD's organization on a nationwide basis, commenced using either "Nation" or Temple" when mentioning one of "Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

The NOI is an all-Negro organization which was original organized in 1930 in Detroit, Michigan. MUHAMMAD claims to have been selected by Allah, the Supreme Being, to lead the so-called Negro race out of slavery in the wilderness of North America by establishing an independent black nation in the United States. Members following MUHAMMAD's teachings and his interpretation of the "Koran" believe there is no such thing as a Negro; that the so-called Negroes are slaves of the white race, referred to as "white devils," in the United States; and that the white race, because of its exploitation of the so-called Negroes, must and will be destroyed in the approaching "War of Armageddon."

In the past, officials and members of the NOI, including MUHAMMAD, have refused to register under the provisions of the Selective Service Acts and have declared that members owe no allegiance to the United States.

On May 5, 1958, the first source advised MUHAMMAD had, upon advice of legal counsel, tempered his personal statements and instructions to his ministers concerning the principles of his organization in order to avoid possible prosecution by the United States Government; however, he did not indicate any fundamental changes in the teachings of his organization.

On May 3, 1965, a third source advised MUHAMMAD had, early in July, 1958, decided to de-emphasize the religious aspects of the teachings of Islam and to stress the economic benefits to be derived by those Negroes who joined the NOI. This policy change, according to MUHAMMAD, would help him acquire additional followers and create more interest in his program.

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY -
NEW YORK LOCAL

A source stated on August 25, 1960, that the New York Local (NYL) of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) was founded during 1938 in New York City.

A second confidential source stated on April 8, 1964 that the NYL was affiliated with and followed the aims and purposes of the National SWP.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

1

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT

On November 3, 1964, a source made available a document entitled "The Revolutionary Action Movement Manifesto," the document having been obtained by the source from an individual known to be a member of the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM).

This document stated, in part that RAM was officially organized in the winter of 1963 by Afro-Americans who support the revolutionary objectives of Robert F. Williams, now residing in Cuba, and his concept of organized violence to achieve the liberation of the Afro-American people in the United States. This Manifesto disclosed that RAM had oriented its program to one of education and political revolution and the organization of a "black" political party with revolutionary objectives, having recognized the need for a "black revolution" that could and would seize power. RAM philsoophy is described in this document as one of revolutionary nationalism, that is, one involving the struggles of the nonwhite races of the world against exploitation and enslavement by the white capitalist and imperialist nations.

Regarding Williams, it should be noted that on August 28, 1961, a Federal warrant was issued at Charlotte, North Carolina, charging him with Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution for the crime of kidnapping. Subsequent to the issuance of this warrant, Williams fled the United States to Cuba, where he now publishes a monthly newsletter entitled "The Crusader" from Havana.

This source in September, 1964, advised RAM is dedicated to the overthrow of the capitalist system in the United States, by violence if necessary, and to its replacement by a socialistic system oriented toward the Chinese Communist interpretation of Marxism-Leninism. RAM is entirely nonwhite in membership, clandestine in nature, and owes its primary allegiance to the "Bandung World," that is, the nonewhite races of the world rather than to any national entity, as such.

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT
2

CONFIDENTIAL

On November 16, 1964, a second source advised he learned recently from a RAM member that the organization began in Detroit, Michigan, largely under the impetus of Don Freeman described as the "Father" of RAM and referred to as RAM's "Black Stalin." Freeman served as RAM Chairman, with Maxwell Stanford, now of New York City, formerly of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, serving as RAM Field Chairman.

This source stated in May, 1965, there has been no formal headquarters, as such, for RAM but that headquarters have been with Freeman since he has played such a dominant role in the leadership of and has directed the policies and activities of the organization.

Within recent months, according to the second source, dissension within RAM has become evident and some dissatisfaction with Freeman's leadership has arisen. So far as is known, however, he remains the titular leader of RAM.

To date, according to the second source in May, 1965, RAM has organized units and membership in several of the larger cities in the United States east of the Mississippi River, and the organization is currently active in attempting to recruit new members and expand its sphere of influence.

CONFIDENTIAL

1.

REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

A source advised on September 9, 1964, that the Revolutionary Committee of the Fourth International (RCFI) was also known as the Spartacist Committee and the Spartacist Group. This source described the RCFI as being composed of former members of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) who had split from the SWP and who were led by JAMES ROBERTSON. This source stated that this political unit has its main center in New York City, where it publishes "Spartacist" on a very irregular basis, but their formal meetings are held at least once a week.

A second source advised on March 4, 1964, that FARRELL DOBBS, National Secretary of the SWP, sent a letter to all SWP branches in February, 1964, in which he advised that the expelled leader of a minority faction of the SWP, JAMES ROBERTSON, announced on February 10, 1964, that his faction would publicly criticize the SWP and had followed this with a public organ called "Spartacist" in which they attacked the SWP.

The July-August, 1964, issue of "Spartacist," in its masthead describes this publication as follows: "... published bi-monthly by supporters of the Revolutionary Tendency expelled from the Socialist Workers Party." This masthead sets forth that the editor of the publication is JAMES ROBERTSON, and its main address is Post Office Box 1377, General Post Office, New York, New York.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

APPENDIX

CONFIDENTIAL

KU KLUX KLAN

The Ku Klux Klan has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY

The Communist Party has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

New Orleans, Louisiana
March 28, 1966

Title: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

Character: RACIAL MATTERS

Reference: Report of SA [redacted] b7C at New Orleans, Louisiana dated March 28, 1966.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past:

[redacted] b1 with whom contact has been (2) insufficient to judge the reliability of his information.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

FBI

Date: 3/31/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, WFO (157-794) (RUC)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. (DDJ)
IM

Enclosed for the Bureau are 9 copies of an LHM, also 2 copies for Chicago and 2 copies for New Orleans.

Copies of the LHM are being disseminated to Secret Service and local military intelligence agencies.

[redacted] gave his information to SA [redacted]

b7c
b7c

WFO is conducting no additional investigation concerning the DDJ as [redacted] stated there is no DDJ organization in the District of Columbia and has no plans to organize in the District of Columbia.

(3) - Bureau (Encs. 2) ENCLOSURE
2 - Chicago (Encs. 2) (157-572) (RM) (Info)
2 - New Orleans (Encs. 2) (157-3290) (RM) (Info)
6 - WFO
(1 - 157-801) ([redacted])
(1 - 157-237) (Liaison Sources)
(1 - 157-433) (Possible Violence)
(1 - 157-425) (ACT)
(1 - 157-528) ([redacted])

REC-81 157-2466-121
EX-104

b7c

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, MIC, SEC
RMK:slsl DEPT: ISD, CRD, ~~Rec~~, Con. Rec. (Comm.)
(13) DATE FORW: 4/5/66
HOW FORW: RIS
AIRTEL BY: KLS:cd
(CC AT + LHM 902 94)

Approved: _____ Special Agent in Charge

4 APR 13 1966

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-23-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

Sent _____ M Per _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Washington, D.C. 20535

March 31, 1966

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED (DDJ)

An article appeared on page B-1 of the March 30, 1966, issue of "The Washington Post and Times Herald", a daily Washington, D.C., newspaper, captioned "Bogalusa Unit Plans Move to D.C.," authored by William Raspberry. A copy of the article is attached.

The article by Raspberry indicated that the DDJ planned to establish a chapter in Washington, D. C., and he questioned the plans for such a move. The article stated that according to Julius W. Hobson, "militant leader of ACT and a prospective Deacon," the move to the area was due to increasing brutality on the part of police officers and the failure of officials to punish it. Hobson, according to the article, said that the Deacons could probably recruit as many as 300 to 400 men in the Washington, D. C., area, and it was Hobson's theory that Negroes must organize to strike back at brutal officers.

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted]

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-80 BY SP1 pay/jr 157-2466 - 121

ENCLOSURE

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
[illegible], INCORPORATED (DDJ)

[redacted] stated that DDJ has no organization in Washington, D. C., and has no plans to organize here. [redacted] stated he is not a member of the DDJ. b7C b7D

"The Washington Post and Times Herald," dated March 31, 1966, page A-20, contained a letter signed "Julius W. Hobson, Chairman of ACT and friend of the Deacons of Defense." A copy of the article is attached. In the letter Hobson denied that he had told Raspberry or any other newspaper reporter that Hobson thought the Negro citizens of the District of Columbia should arm and attack the policemen.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Bogalusa Unit Plans Move to D.C.

'Deacons' Protest Alleged Police Brutality Here

By William Raspberry

The Deacons for Defense and Justice, organized a year ago in Bogalusa, La., to retaliate for white attacks on Negroes, have been branching out and plan to establish a chapter here. Already they claim scores of active chapters in several Southern states. They reportedly are moving north as well.

The Deacons insist their purposes are purely defensive—to protect the Negro community against white violence. Primarily they have operated in the South, striking back at the Ku Klux Klan and protecting civil rights demonstrations.

Raspberry

Why are they coming to Washington, where demonstrators almost never are subjected to violence and where there has been no reported Klan activity?

According to Julius W. Hobson, militant leader of ACT and a prospective Deacon, it is because of increasing brutality on the part of police officers and failure of officials to punish it.

He blamed brutality for two recent jail-cell suicides and cited the case of a wedding party melee in southeast Washington during which seven persons, including four policemen, were injured. Hobson said the judge in that case "upheld the police before he even heard the witnesses." He said there have been "five or six people to die in jail recently, and the only explanation we get is from the police who put them there."

NOT ONLY can Negroes not expect justice from officials in cases of brutality, said Hobson, but "the middle-class Negro leadership acquiesces in this mistreatment by sitting on these committees." Hobson himself sat for two years on the Police Chief's Citizens' Adsory Committee, which during that time "took a hundred cases (of alleged brutality) and never did anything about them."

He finally quit the committee.

As to the Deacons, Hobson's theory is that since neither the Police Department, the courts nor the Complaint Review Board acts with sufficient vigor against allegations of police brutality, Negroes must organize to strike back at brutal officers.

It is a dangerous theory. It is one thing for a Negro in Bogalusa to take a shot at a fleeing car whose occupants have just fired into his home. It is quite another for an armed group to go running for a policeman because they have heard rumors of brutality.

ASKED ABOUT the danger of a misguided attack on an officer who had used force to maintain a legitimate arrest, Hobson noted that the "police make a lot of mistakes; the people will make a lot of mistakes too." He didn't appear to be unduly bothered by the prospect.

Hobson said the Deacons probably could recruit as many as 300 to 400 "good men" in the Washington area. It will be difficult to tell whether that estimate is high. While the Deacons operate more or less openly in Bogalusa, they have been inclined to secrecy in other areas.

Capt. Thomas Herlihy, head of the Police Department's Special Investigations Squad, said he was aware that officials of the Deacons for Defense had been to Washington and were scheduled to return this week. He said, however, that the information given him indicated that the Washington group would be essentially a fund-raising organization to support Deacon chapters in Chicago and elsewhere.

Herlihy said he had no knowledge of Minuteman activities in Washington, but for Hobson the fact that the FBI uncovered a Minuteman rifle range and training site last year in northern Virginia is reason enough for Negroes here to arm themselves. The Minutemen are a militant group who say they train themselves against a "Communist" takeover of the U.S.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-23-80 BY SP1 SPK/JK

157-2466-101
ENCLOSURE

THE WASH POST & TIMES HERALD
B-1 Date 3/30/66
Washington, D.C.

Hobson on the Deacons

I would like to make the following observations about "Potomac Watch," William Raspberry's article appearing in the March 30 issue, and dealing with the organization of a D.C. chapter of the Deacons for Defense.

I categorically deny that I have told Mr. Raspberry or any other newspaper reporter that I think the Negro citizens of D.C. should arm and attack the policemen of this city. However, I did say to Mr. Raspberry that I think there is widespread police brutality practiced with official sanction against the black citizens of this city. I further stated that the black community should organize to combat this brutality.

As to what the Deacons for Defense are going to do here, I refused to discuss that with Mr. Raspberry, and referred him to Ernest Thomas, executive vice president of the Deacons who is now in Chicago.

JULIUS W. HOBSON,
Chairman of ACT and friend of the Deacons for Defense.
Washington.

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DATE_____ BY_____

157-2466-121

ENCLOSURE

THE WASH. POST & TIMES HERALD
Washington, D.C.
Page A20 Date 3/31/66

FD-529 (10-20-78)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

4 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

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FBI/DOJ

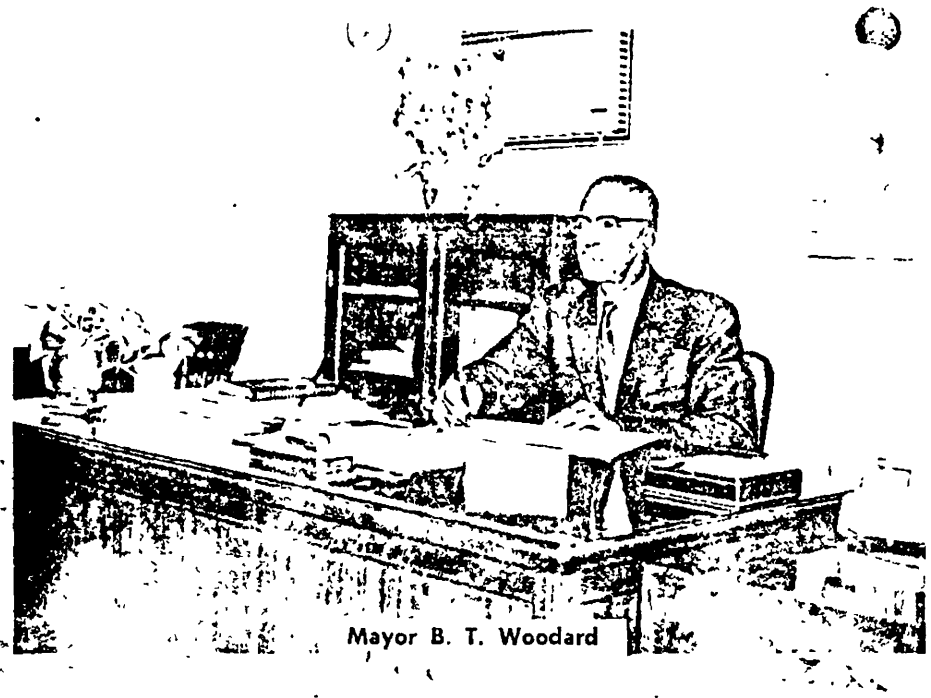
Town Hall

TOWN OF

GRAMBLING

"Home Of Grambling College"

Grambling, Louisiana



Mayor B. T. Woodard

Greetings

Welcome to Grambling! We, the officials and citizens of the Town of Grambling, are exceedingly proud of the growth continuing development, and bright potential of our community.

Better than anyone else, we know that life here is full and rich; we know that the social, cultural, and civic climate is of the best, and we firmly believe that we reside, labor, and play in one of the finest places in this great state and nation.

With the publication of this brochure, it is our hope that you gain a quick but thorough introduction to the Town of Grambling. Using it as a guide, we trust that you will come to appreciate our community and its fine citizens to the fullest extent.

In this connection, please be assured that you are completely welcome to our town and that we sincerely feel that your presence here will add considerably to the tenor of life in this beloved community.

Your complete comfort and pleasure are always our enduring aim, your slightest wish, therefore shall be to us a propelling command. Call upon us *any* of us, if necessary to insure the success of your visit. Be assured that you will be served to the best of our ability, for not only do we want you here now, we want you to want to come back again—*and again.*

B. T. WOODARD
Mayor, Town of Grambling

President R. W. E. Jones

Greetings

To those of us who call Grambling home, as I have been privileged to do for the past 35 years, there is no place anywhere exactly like the Town of Grambling.

Many towns, of course, make a similar claim, but we of Grambling have the w[illegible] of [illegible] many of the citizens of these other towns not to believe that there *is* a special something called "the Grambling spirit".

What this spirit springs from is not alone the scores of fine residences dotting the landscape here and there and the hundreds of fine citizens who reside therein

It springs not alone from the fact that Grambling College, considered by many as one of the most unique and fastest growing institutions of higher learning in America, is located here nor that it contributes in no small measure to the ebb and flow of Grambling life.

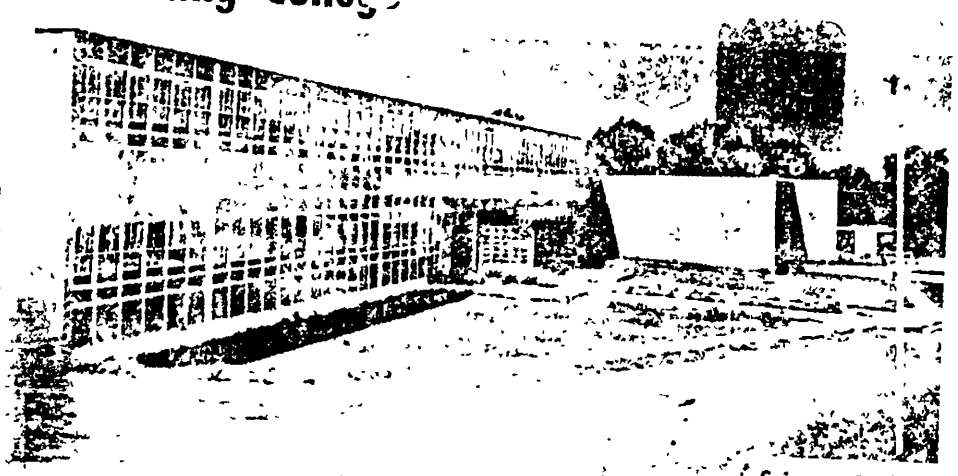
Nor does the spirit spring from the fact that Grambling is one of the few all-Negro incorporated towns in the nation, as distinctive an achievement as that is.

Rather, we believe, the Grambling Spirit springs from a happy combination of all of these and, above all, from the happy existence of community-wide warm heartedness, cooperation, understanding, and service

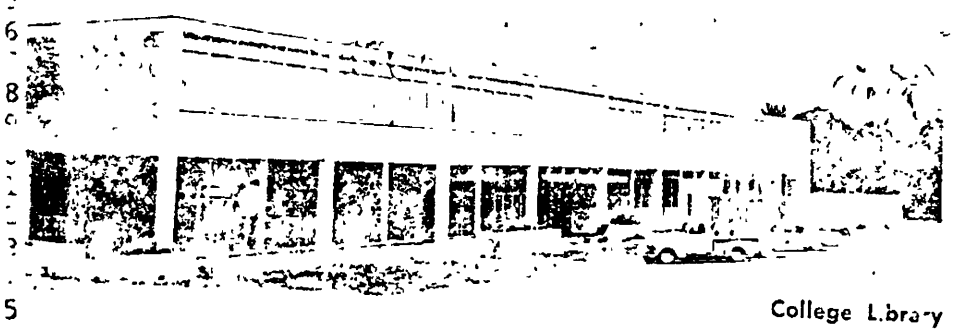
We do not hesitate, therefore, to tender you a warm welcome to the Town of Grambling. We think you will find that the Grambling Spirit compels us to take you to our hearts. We, in turn, hope that you will take us to yours.

R. W. E. JONES, President
Grambling College

Grambling College

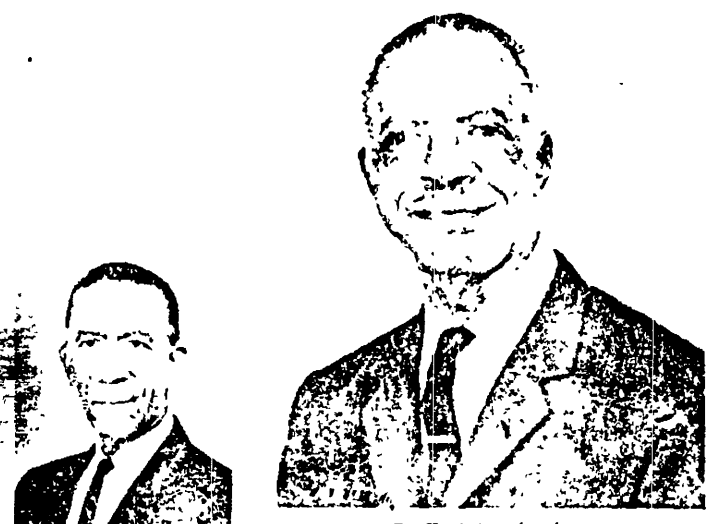


Science Building



College Library

Faurot Student Union



B. T. Woodard
Mayor

W. E. Downs
Councilman

Ruth Bradford
Councilwoman

L. D. Land
Councilman

E. T. Turner
Councilman

Fred Ellis
Councilman

W. L. Garner
Clerk

Levis T. Jackson
Marshal

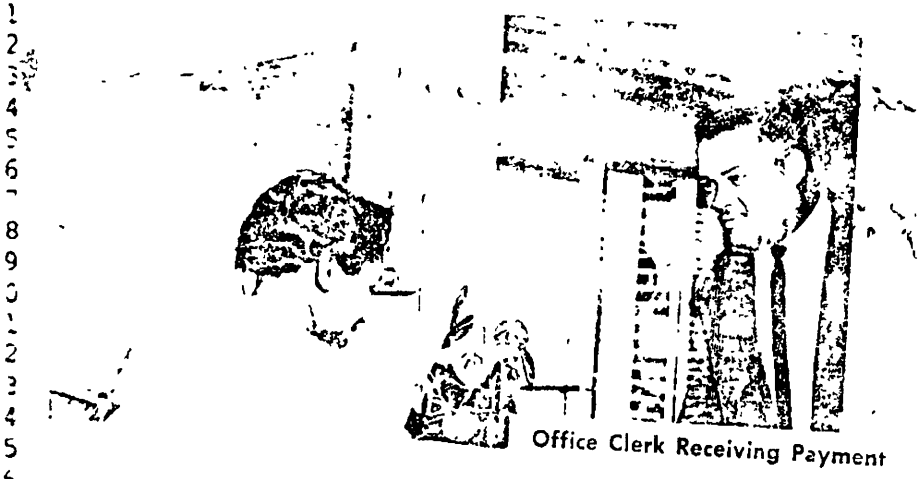
F. M. Lloyd
Inspector

A. C. Carpenter
Street Comm.

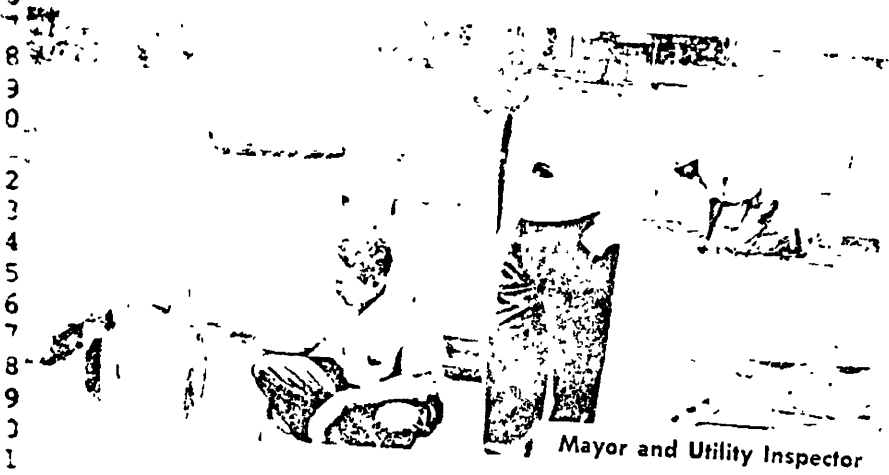
Charlene S. Greene
Sec'y. - Bookkeeper

Good Governmen

Town Council

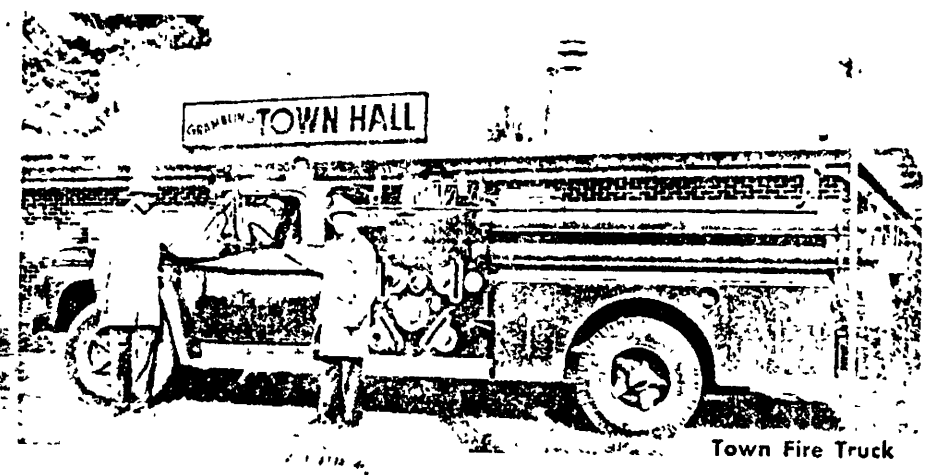


Office Clerk Receiving Payment

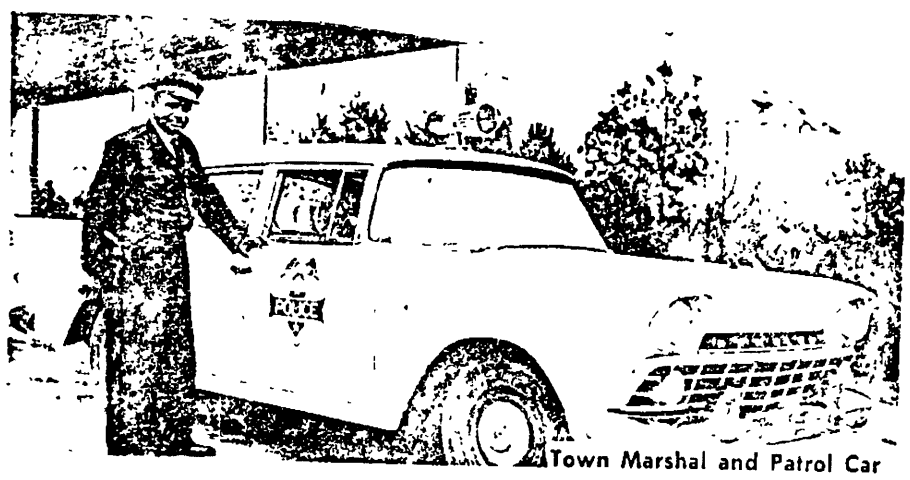


Mayor and Utility Inspector

Good Protection –



Town Fire Truck



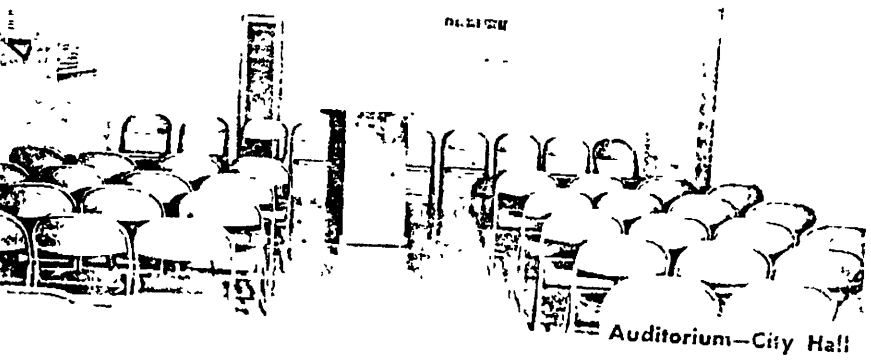
Town Marshal and Patrol Car

Marshal and City Jail

Free Election –

Voting Commissioners

Instructions for Voting Machine

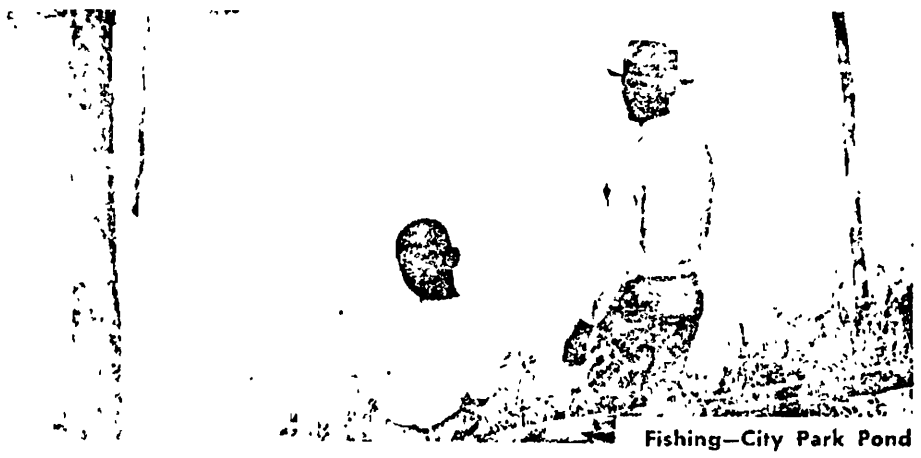


Auditorium—City Hall

Recreation –

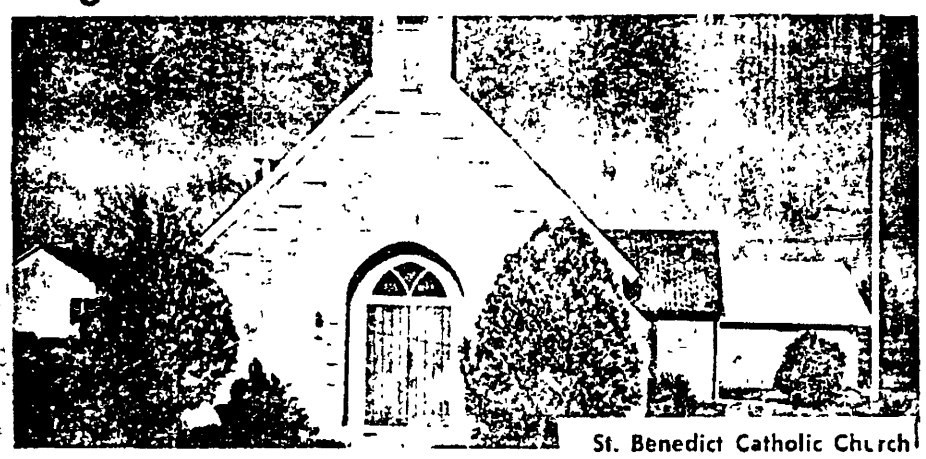
Cook-Out—City Park

Riding—City Park

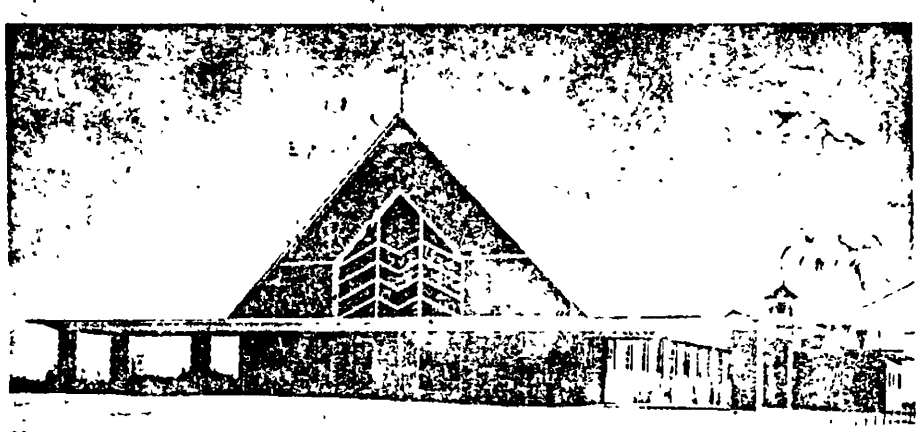


Fishing—City Park Pond

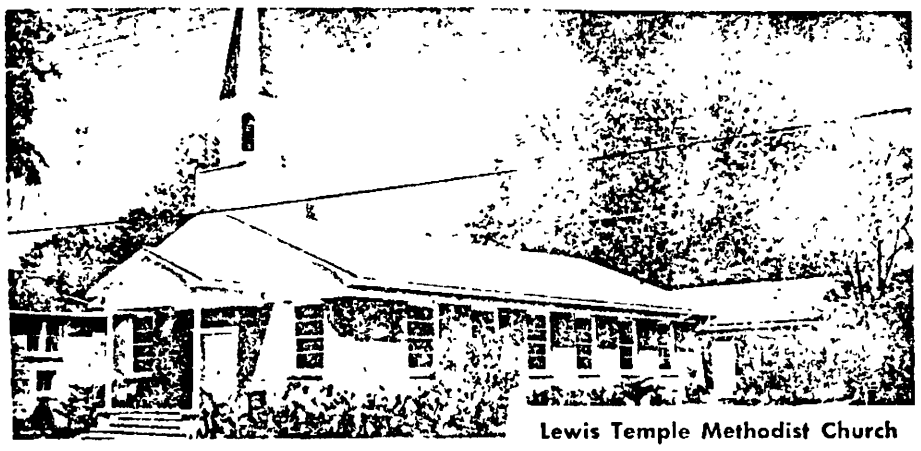
Religion –



St. Benedict Catholic Church



New Rocky Valley Baptist Church



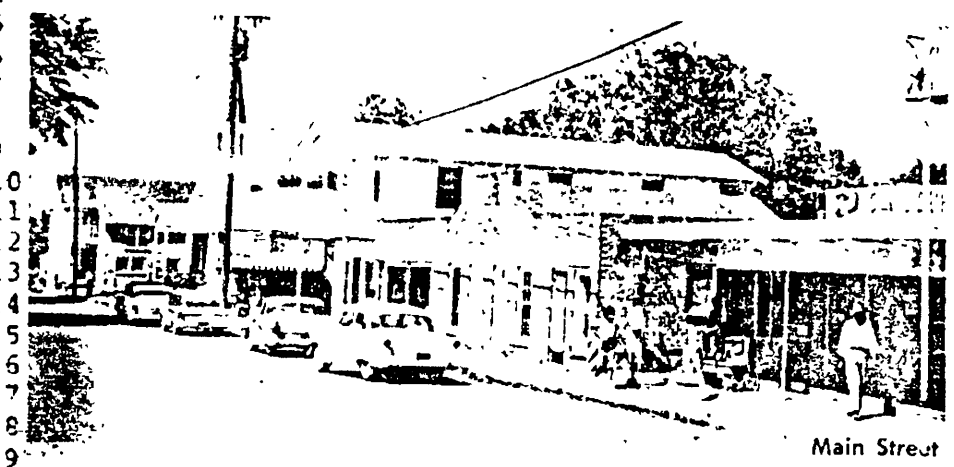
Lewis Temple Methodist Church

Business Establishments —

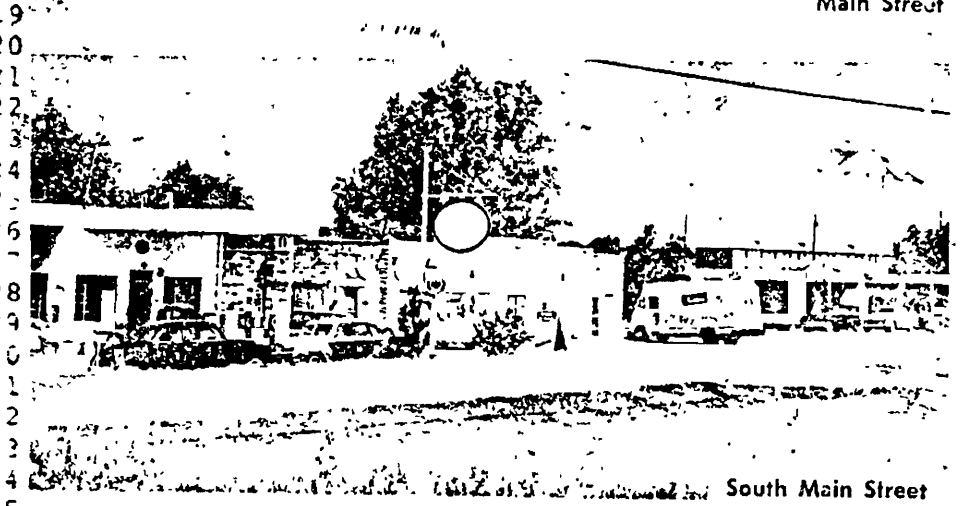
U. S. Post Office

Main Street

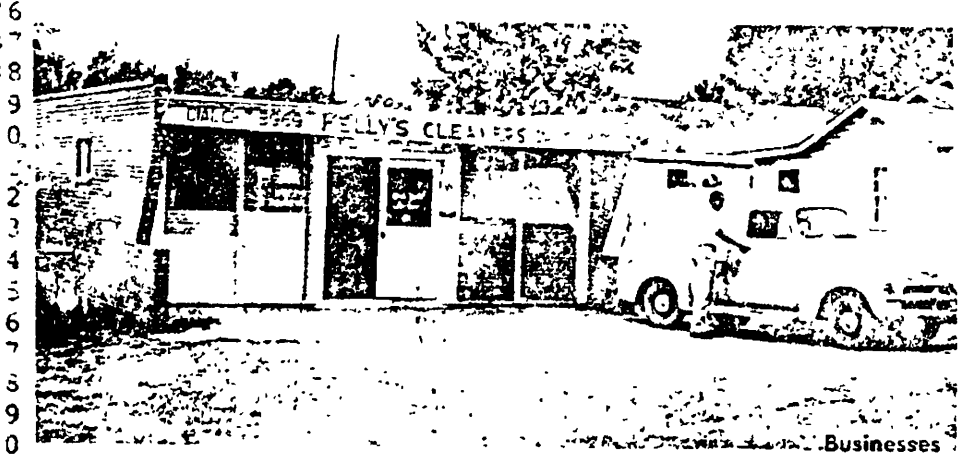
Businesses



Main Street

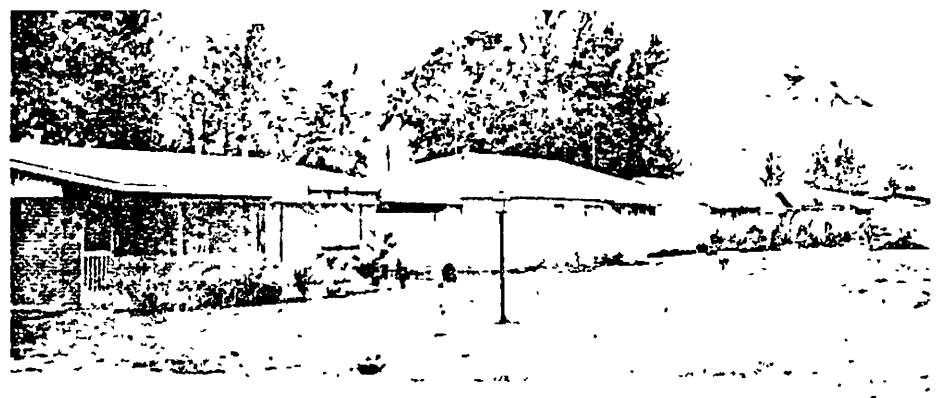


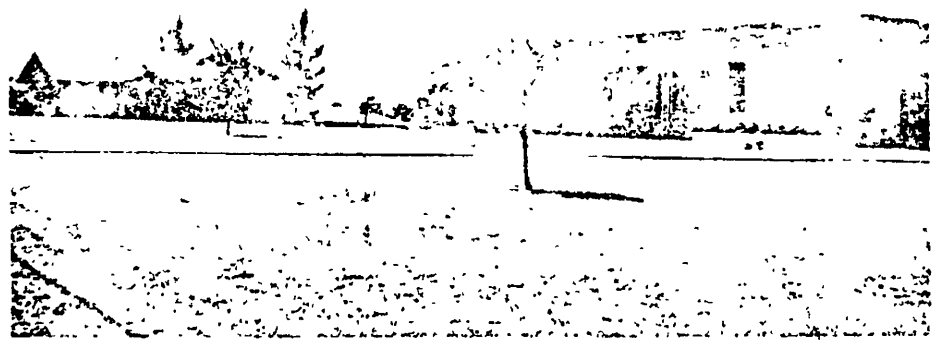
South Main Street



Businesses

Fine Homes —





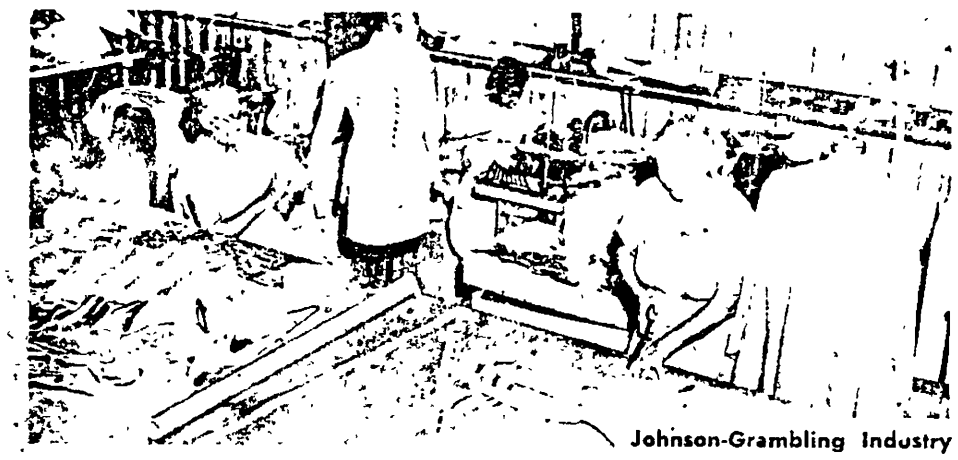
Fine Homes –

Washington Street

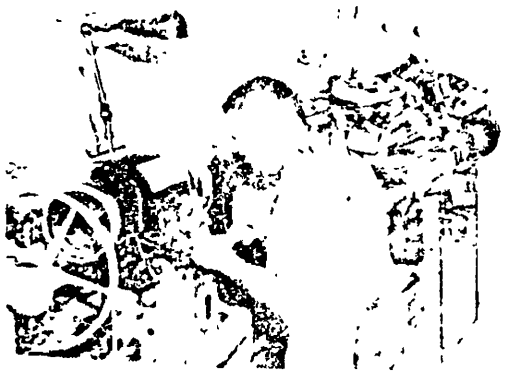
Richmond Drive

Continuously Building

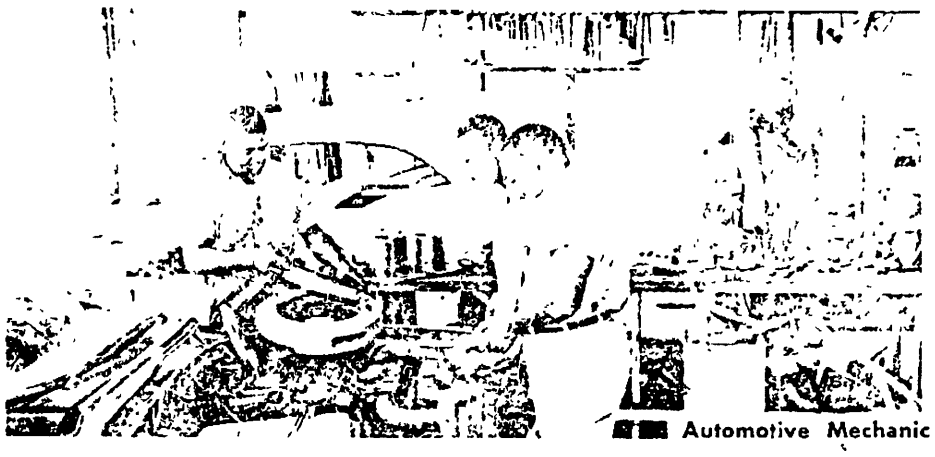
Business and Industry –



Johnson-Grambling Industry



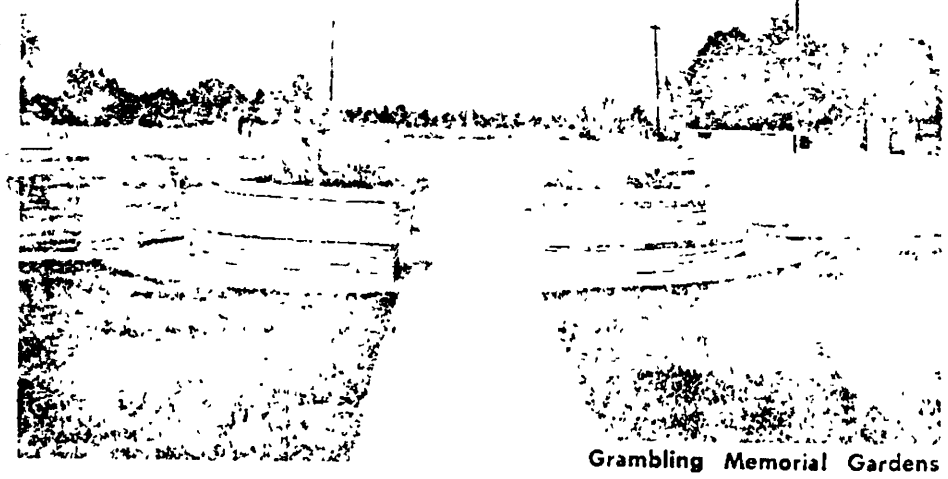
Shoe Repairing



Automotive Mechanic

Beyond The Limits

Mount Zion Baptist Church



Grambling Memorial Gardens

A town is more than a [illegible]ce on a map. A town is more than a set of census bureau statistics. It is more than a location from whence someone came or to whence someone is going. It is more than houses and roads and institutions. A town is people—people, human beings, living, working, learning, playing.

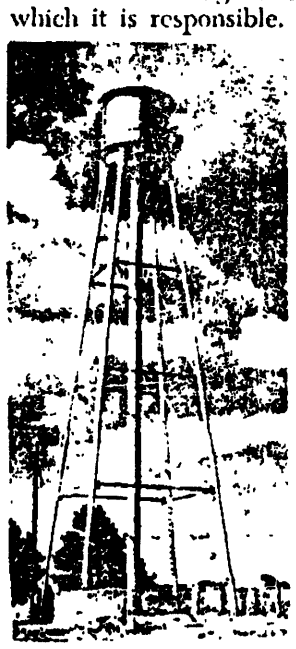
Grambling has a noteworthy record of being a people-centered town. The efforts of its leaders in the past were so directed, and all current plans are geared to making and keeping Grambling a good place for people to live.

Organizations like the Grambling Improvement Association are working continuously to insure good housing for Grambling citizens, to secure agencies and industries which will provide employment outlets, and to give direction to recreational development.

A thriving Federal Credit Union is working steadfastly to provide area citizens the opportunity to establish financial strength for themselves and to provide a source of help in time of need.

Grambling Water Supply

Grambling College steadfastly lends its assistance and leadership to all worthwhile community endeavors, and the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Grambling work unceasingly to coordinate the efforts for betterment on the part of all individuals and agencies and to sponsor those legal pathways to progress for which it is responsible.


Grambling Water Supply

In addition to an expanding city-maintained recreation park, the area abounds with good fishing and hunting regions for those who like these recreational pursuits. Swimming facilities are available in nearby Ruston and on the Grambling College campus. Three standard movie theatres and one drive-in operate in the Grambling environs. Dozens of outstanding cultural attractions open to the general public are sponsored on the college campus each year along with many first-rate games in football, basketball, and baseball.

Social and fraternal groups of wide description and broad purpose abound in the community.

In regard to medical services, close ties have long been maintained between the Grambling College Infirmary and the Grambling Community. A hospital, three clinics, and numerous physicians, surgeons, and dentists are available in the Grambling area.

Continuous efforts are being made by the officials of the Town of Grambling, civic and educational agencies, and various leaders to the end that the people of Grambling may have life and have it more abundantly.

History Of Grambling

The beginnings of Grambling actually go back to the establishment of Lincoln Parish in 1873 from portions of Jackson, Union, Claiborne, Bienville and Ouachita parishes when cotton growing became increasingly profitable in the area and many modest farms were developed in the region.

The birth of Ruston occurred in 1884 when a subdivision of 80 acre. belonging to a large landowner named Robert E. Russ was laid out as a townsite by the VS & P Railroad (Illinois Central) in exchange for a right-of-way through the Russ property. The VS & P mainline ran from Shreveport to Vicksburg and around the turn of the century one P. G. Grambling established a sawmill near the present site of Grambling. The Railroad established a spur and way-station to service the timber business and the stop was named for Mr. Grambling.

The sawmill soon went out of existence, but meanwhile several small businesses had been established, churches built, and in 1901, the North Louisiana Colored Farmer's Relief Association, made up of more than fifteen hundred persons from five parishes, set about establishing an industrial school. The Association contacted Tuskegee's Booker T. Washington and secured on August 4, 1901, the services of Charles P. Adams, who founded the Colored Industrial and Agricultural School of Lincoln Parish in the Allen Green Community just north of the present location of Grambling. The history of Grambling has been linked almost inseparably with the growth and development of this school in the community.

By 1905 the industrial school was moved to its present site. In 1918 it became Lincoln Parish Training School; in 1928, it became Louisiana Negro Normal and Industrial Institute, a state-supported junior college. In 1940 a four-year, degree-granting program was initiated at what was now to be called Grambling College. Meanwhile, more and more families began to cluster in the immediate vicinity of the village and the college, more businesses were started a post office put in operation, and the town began to grow.

During the 1958-59 school year, the duly authorized Liberal Arts Program was put into effect. For the 1959-60 school year, the College was reorganized under the following divisions: Division of Applied Sciences and Technology, Division of Education, and Division of Liberal Arts. Beginning September, 1963, the College instituted the Division of General Studies.

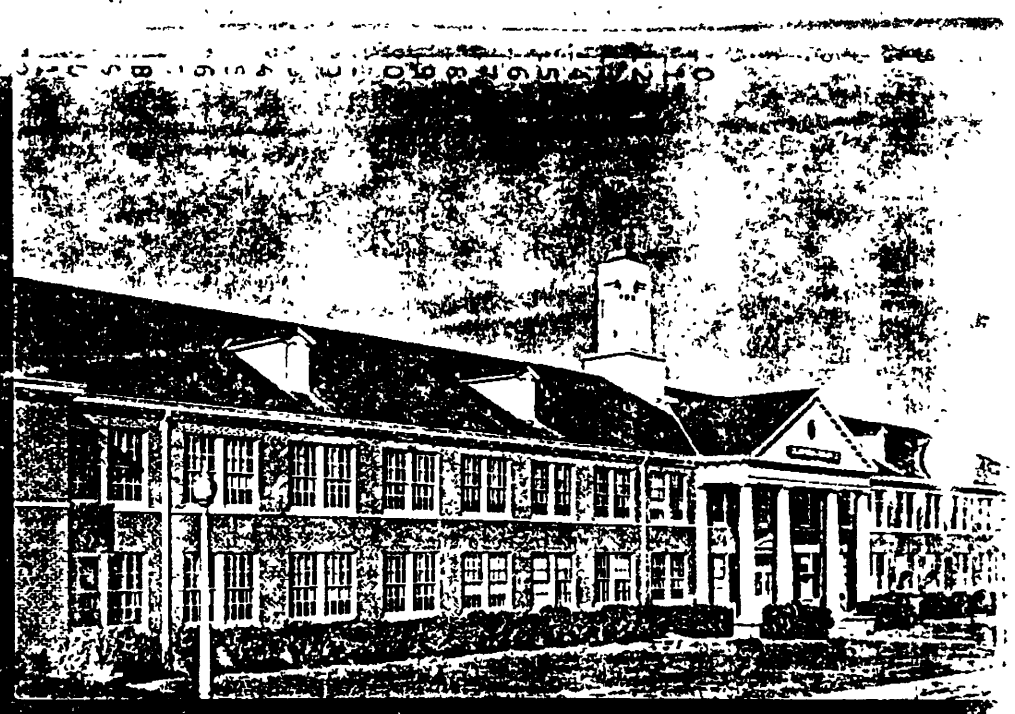
In September, 1953, Grambling was incorporated under the Statue laws of the State of Louisiana. The first official meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen were held October 1, 1953 for the Village of Grambling, Louisiana. The first officers were a Mayor, three Aldermen and Marshal, appointed by the Governor of the State of Louisiana.

In 1959, by proclamation of the Governor of the State of Louisiana the Village was declared a Town, with a population of 3,144 citizens.

Since the incorporation of the Town, major bond issues have been floated for the establishment of water, sewerage and a town hall. Many other developments such as streets, street lights, natural gas, telephones, etc., have been initiated by the town.

The present officers of the town are a Mayor, five Aldermen, and a Marshal elected by popular vote. Appointed by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen are Public Utilities Commissioner, Treasurer-Clerk, Secretary-Tax Collector, and Street Commissioner. Also a Planning and Zoning Commission, consisting of nine persons.

Edited by ROY B. MOSS
Photography by Le MOSS STUDIO
1963



GRAMBLING COLLEGE
Grambling, Louisiana
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Oklahoma Card Co., Box 4637, Okla. City, Okla.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

POST CARD
ADDRESS

C-24903

GRAMBLING COLLEGE
Grambling Louisiana
STUDENT UNION

Oklahoma Card Co., Box 4637, Okla. City, Okla.

PLACE
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POST CARD
ADDRESS

GRAMBLING COLLEGE
Grambling, Louisiana
FINE ARTS BUILDING

Oklahoma Card Co., Box 4637, Okla. City, Okla.

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POST CARD
ADDRESS

C-24904

GRAMBLING COLLEGE
Grambling, Louisiana
WOMEN'S DORMITORY
DORMITORY III

Oklahoma Card Co., Box 4637, Okla. City, Okla.

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POST CARD
ADDRESS

C-24898

GRAMBLING COLLEGE
Grambling, Louisiana
WOMEN'S DORMITORY
FRESHMAN I

Oklahoma Card Co., Box 4637, Okla. City, Okla.

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C-24896

GRAMBLING COLLEGE
Grambling, Louisiana
INFIRMARY

Oklahoma Card Co., Box 4637, Okla. City, Okla.

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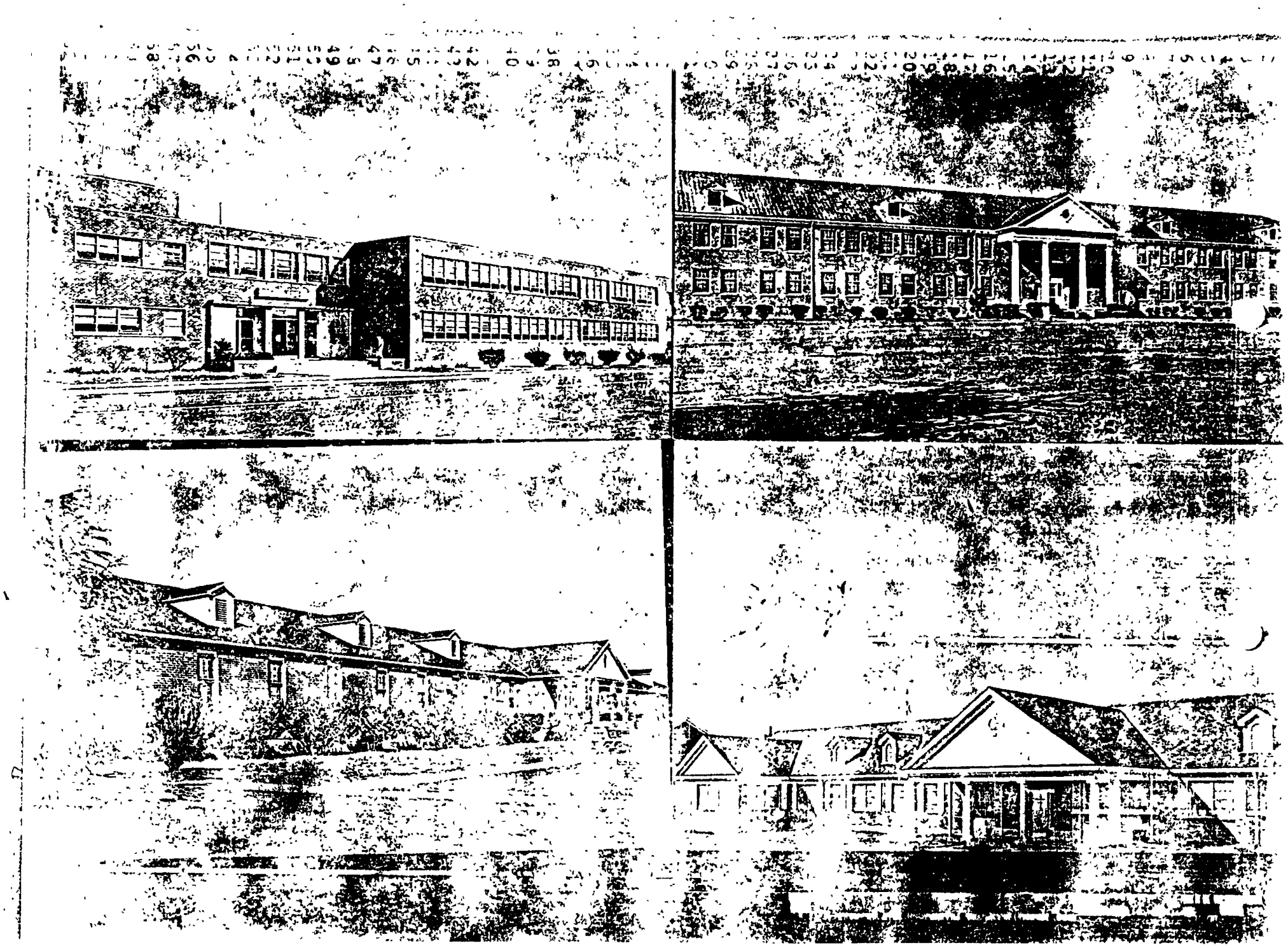

GRAMBLING COLLEGE
Grambling, Louisiana
WOMEN'S DORMITORY
FRESHMEN II

Oklahoma Card Co., Box 4637, Okla. City, Okla.

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POST CARD
ADDRESS

C-24897

GRAMBLING COLLEGE
Grambling, Louisiana
STUDENT UNION LOUNGE

Oklahoma Card Co., Box 4637, Okla. City, Okla.

PLACE
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POST CARD
ADDRESS

C-24906

GRAMBLING COLLEGE
Grambling, Louisiana
GYMNASIUM

Oklahoma Card Co., Box 4637, Okla. City, Okla.

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C-24895

PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING
SWIMMING POOL

Grambling College
Grambling, Louisiana

POST CARD

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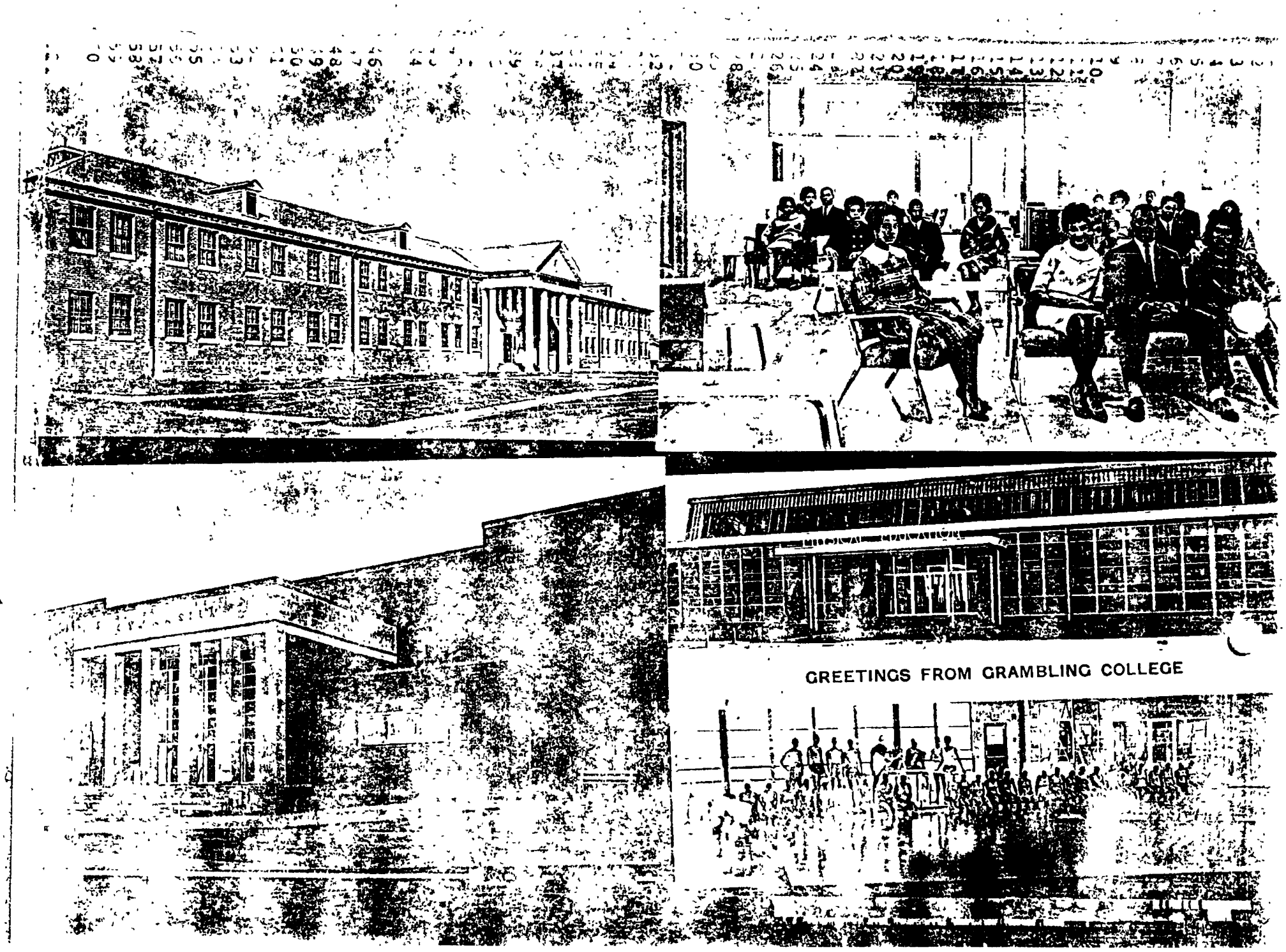
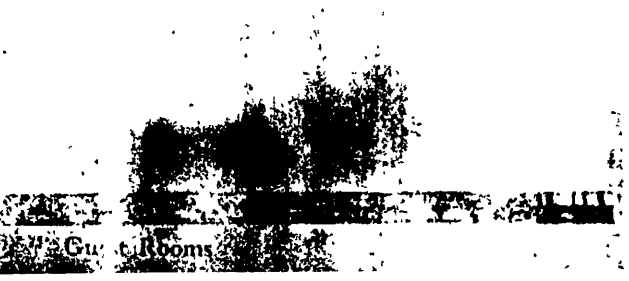

GREETINGS FROM GRAMBLING COLLEGE

Conferences — Black and Gold Room

Student Union Board

Student Government

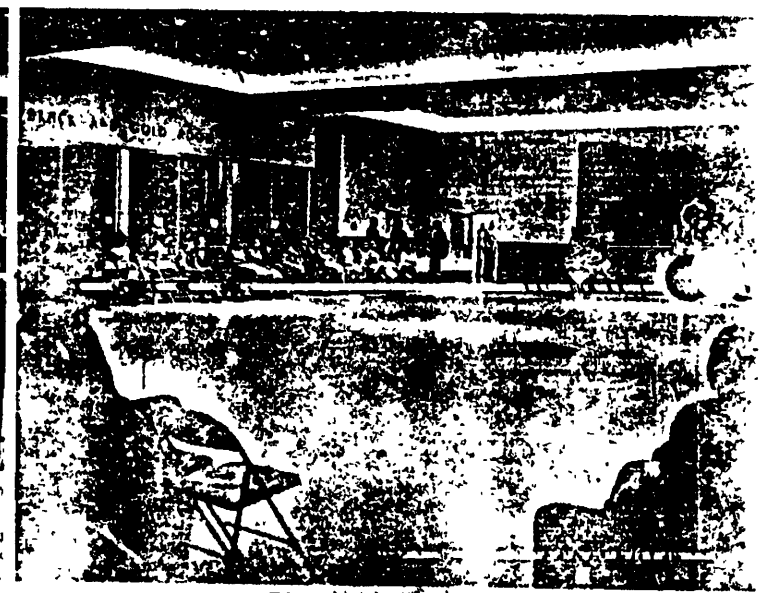
— Organizations —



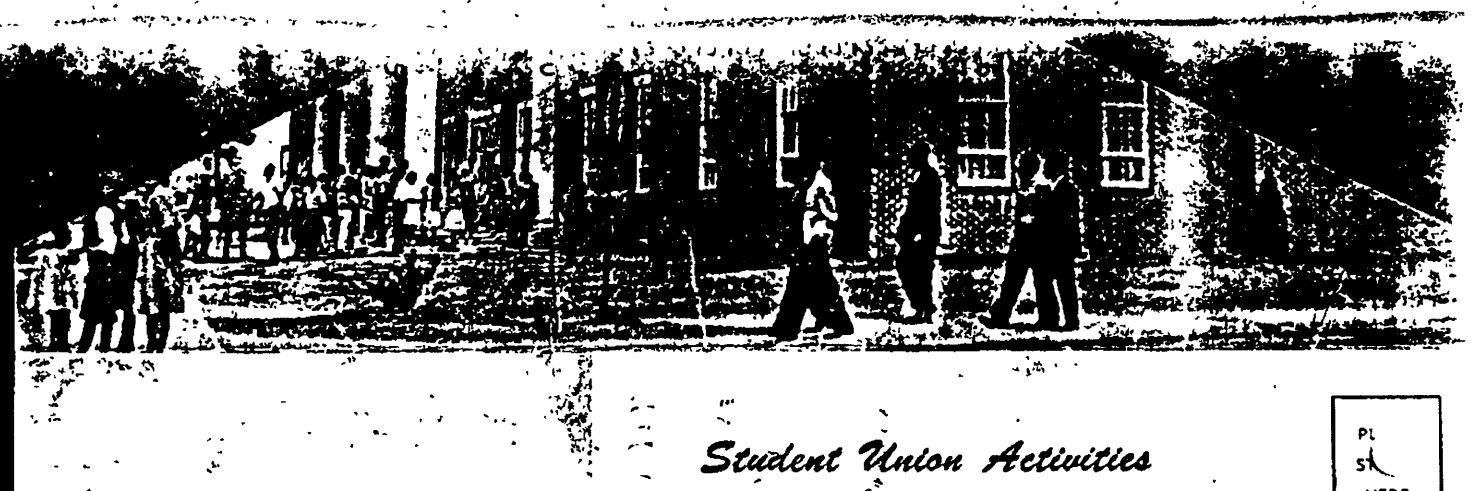
Guest Rooms

Living Room of the Campus

Tiger Room



Black and Gold Room



Student Union Activities

Grambling College

Grambling, Louisiana

PL
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To _____

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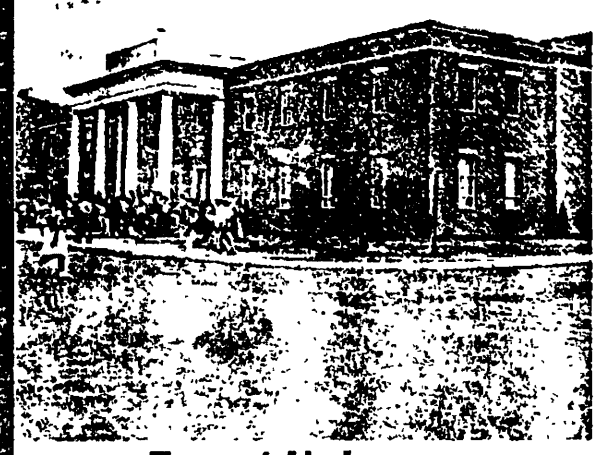
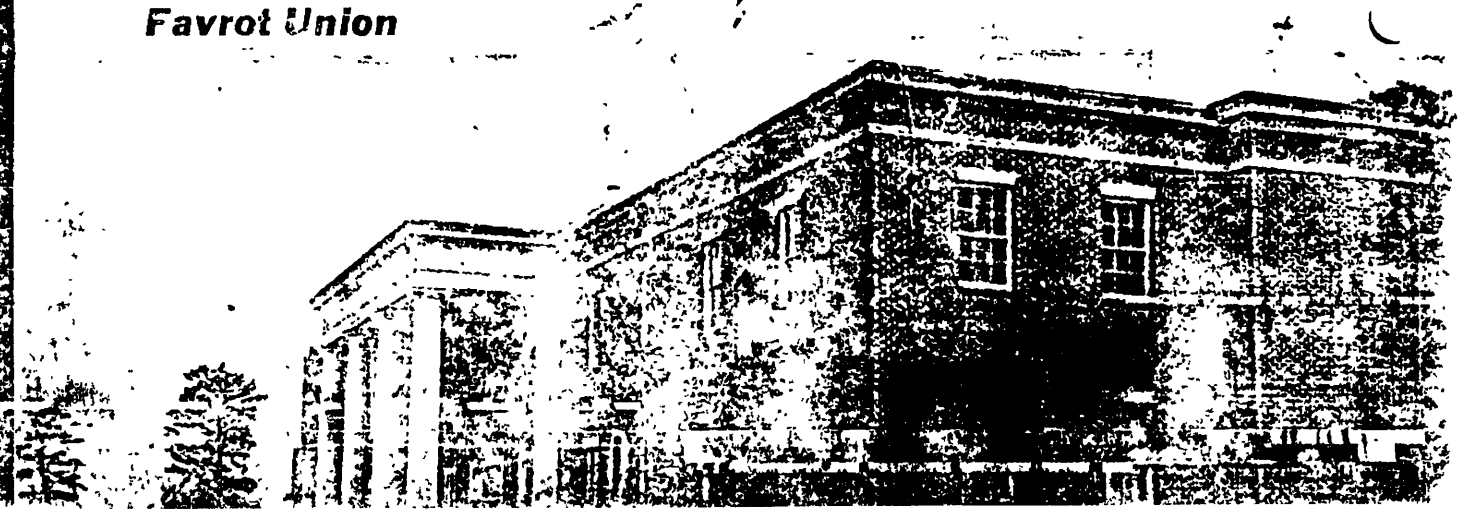


Favrot Union



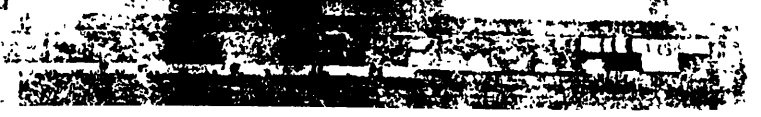
Post Office
Student Mail Service

Snack Bar and
Cafeteria

Barber Shop

Beauty Shop

Post Office
Student Mail Service



Relaxing in
the Main Lounge

FBI

Date: 4-5-66

Transmit the following in [redacted] (Type in plaintext or code)

Via [redacted] (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)
(157-)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)
(157-840)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RM [redacted]
(ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] b7C
RM

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM II, 1-[illegible]
DATE OF REVIEW 4-5-[illegible]

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY SOUTHAM SLIP (S) [illegible]
DATE 8/27/[illegible]

Re Chicago airtel to Bureau, 2/28/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine (9) copies of a LHM, one (1) copy is being furnished Jackson, and two (2) copies for New Orleans, concerning captioned matter.

[redacted] b1

Current Informant Contacts

[redacted] b1

EX-101 REC-82 157-2466-123

4 - Bureau (Encl. 9) (RM)
(1 - 157-[redacted]) b7C
1 - Jackson (157-Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc.) (Encl. 1) (RM) (Info)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Encl. 2) (Info)
(1 - 157-[redacted]) b7C
4 - Chicago
(1 - 157-413)
[redacted] b1

LGR:slw
(11)

AGENT
DATE 4/1/66
HGW
BY:

Approved: [redacted] Sent [redacted] M Per [redacted]
Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

ICCAT + HHM 902 PM

57 APR 20 1966

CG 157-572

CONFIDENTIAL

One (1) copy of this LHM is being designated for Region I, 113th INTC Group, United States Secret Service and United States Attorney, all Chicago, Illinois.

LEAD

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain whether Chicago Chapter of the DDJ has actually been formed and whether Chicago headquarters will be at 30 West Washington, Chicago.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

CONFIDENTIAL

Chicago, Illinois
April 5, 1966

CG 157-572

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTER (ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] b7C

RACIAL MATTER

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP (S) ON DATE

Reference is made to memorandum dated February 28, 1966 at Chicago, Illinois.

All of the sources mentioned in this memorandum have furnished reliable information in the past.

[redacted] b1 (C)

[redacted] b1 (C)

[redacted] b1 (C)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 Sal / Ft 7-23-80
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2. 4. 2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 4-5-86

APR 11 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

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[redacted] (c) b1

On April 4, 1966, [redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] advised that no [illegible] has been developed which would indicate that a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, [illegible] has been formed in Chicago or that the [illegible] obtained any office space in Chicago. They also [illegible] Thomas, an organizer of the DDJ, [illegible] of Chicago frequently, but is not known [illegible] permanent residence in Chicago.

Confidential informant [illegible] with certain racial matters in the [illegible] in April, 1966 that [illegible] in organizing a Chicago [illegible] has met with considerable [illegible] organizations in Chicago. [illegible] also advised that there has not [illegible] Thomas has attempted to purchase [illegible] while in Chicago. [illegible] quently and is not known to have any [illegible] Chicago.

The following [illegible] The Daily News, Chicago, Illinois newspaper, dated [illegible], 1966.

"[illegible] Forces Hur-

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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CONFIDENTIAL

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CONFIDENTIAL

"CORNELIUS said three members of the Bogalusa (La.) Deacons chapter have been in Chicago helping to organize the Chicago chapter.

"'They were invited here by Olive Branch Lodge 94 of Prince Hall Masons,' said Cornelius. 'They are here also to appeal for funds for the defense of civil rights workers arrested in Bogalusa.'

"CORNELIUS, when asked why he thought a Deacons chapter was essential to Chicago, said, 'It was only last week a cross was burned on a lawn in Waukegan. There's no doubt that we need a chapter here.'"

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

FD 36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

FBI

Date: 4/4/66

Transmit the following in CONFIDENTIAL
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1/2/4/5
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.5
DATE OF REVIEW 4-4-80

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, Detroit (157-1200) (C)

APPEARANCE OF ERNEST THOMAS,
VICE PRESIDENT, DEACONS OF
DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.,
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA,
SPONSORED BY THE
FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIALIST FORUM,
DETROIT, MICHIGAN
4/1/66
RM

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY COURIER
CLIP (S) ON
DATE 4/6/66

Re Detroit airtel and LHM to the Bureau, 3/24/66, captioned as above (no copies furnished Chicago).

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM concerning captioned matter. Two copies are being furnished the New Orleans Office, which is office of origin of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc.

In addition, two copies are being furnished the Chicago Office since ERNEST THOMAS mentioned during his speech that the Headquarters of the Deacons is located in Chicago.

One copy of LHM being furnished G-2, USA and OSI, Detroit, Mich., and one copy being furnished ONI, Chicago. Two copies are also being furnished U.S. Secret Service, Detroit, Mich.

ENCLOSURE

REC-18 157-2466-1

4 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (RM)
(1 - 157-2466)
2 - Chicago (Enc. 2) (RM)
2 - New Orleans (Enc. 2) (RM)
(1 - 157-3290)
4 - Detroit
(1 - 157-706 POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)
(1 - 157-1042 DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.)

TPD/rms
(12)

[redacted] b1 (C)

C. C. Wick

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI; SEC. SER; CRD, RED, C

DATE 4/6/66
HOW FORW:
BY:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

53 APR 19 1966

Approved: Sent M Per
Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] (c) b1

Enclosed LHM is being classified confidential since information received from the source utilized might reasonably result in the identification of a source of continuing value and compromise his future effectiveness thereof, which could adversely effect the nation's security.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Detroit, Michigan
April 4, 1966

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP18C/LFT
REASON - FCIM II 1-2.42
DATE OF DECL. 4-4-82

Re: Appearance of Ernest Thomas,
Vice President, Deacons of
Defense and Justice, Incorporated,
Jonesboro, Louisiana, Sponsored
By the Friday Night Socialist Forum,
Detroit, Michigan
April 1, 1966

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
FIELD OFFICES
NOTIFIED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OF
8/21/80 [illegible]

Reference is made to memorandum at Detroit, Michigan dated March 24, 1966, captioned as above.

A characterization of the Friday Night Socialist Forum is contained in the appendix attached hereto.

All unidentified sources utilized in the appendix have furnished reliable information in the past.

On April 4, 1966, a source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that Ernest Thomas, Vice President of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, from Jonesboro, Louisiana, spoke in Detroit, Michigan, on April 1, 1966, at a forum sponsored by the Friday Night Socialist Forum which was held at 3737 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

Source advised that Thomas was the featured speaker at this forum and spoke for approximately one hour. According to source, approximately 60 to 70 individuals, the majority of whom were Negro, were in attendance at this forum.

Thomas, during his talk, indicated that by the summer of 1966, there will be "groups of Deacons" in every community in both the North and South. Thomas indicated that the headquarters of the Deacons is located in Chicago and that the Deacons also receive their training in Chicago before being dispatched to various cities throughout the United States to form Deacon clubs.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE
APR 25 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

157-2466-124

ENCLOSURE

Re: Appearance of Ernest Thomas, Etc.

Thomas indicated, at the present time, that the Deacons are direly in need of funds and that the Deacons, in order to obtain these funds, plan on putting pressure on rich Negroes. Thomas indicated, during his talk, if the white power structure in the United States does not maintain law and order, then the Deacons plan to take law and order into their own hands. He stated that the Deacons would deal in a harsh manner with any informants of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) or Central Intelligence Agency within their organization and plan on utilizing all their resources in an effort to get Negro citizens to vote in the forthcoming elections throughout the United States.

Thomas indicated that his organization was protecting civil rights workers in the South and preventing anyone from harming these civil rights workers while engaged in their activities. Thomas discussed the recent rioting in the Watts area of Los Angeles, California, and that which took place during the summer of 1965. He indicated it was significant that in the recent rioting which took place in the Watts area, thay many of the individuals involved were armed with rifles and other weapons, whereas during the summer of 1965, very few of the Negroes were armed.

[redacted] b (c)

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) as on file with the Secretary of State, for the State of Louisiana, reflects that the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. is a Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The location and business office address of its registered office shall be Amos Service Station (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

"This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes: To instruct, train,

Re: Appearance of Ernest Thomas, Etc.

"teach and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principals of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Louisiana, as well as the constitution and laws of any other State wherein this corporation may operate; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the use, value and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation and duties of the citizen to the community and the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen: To further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law."

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

APPENDIX

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIALIST FORUM

On May 19, 1965, a source advised that the Friday Night Socialist Forum (FNSF) is a name used by the Detroit, Michigan Branch of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) in sponsoring forums, socials and other functions which are open to the public. Primarily, FNSF pertains to weekly public forums held at SWP headquarters, for the purpose of spreading propaganda of the SWP, developing contacts, facilitating recruitment and members into the SWP, and presenting subjects of a controversial nature in the social, political and economic fields. Usually speakers are members of the SWP and they give the socialist viewpoint of the subject discussed. The money collected at these FNSFs goes into the Detroit Branch, SWP treasury.

The SWP has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 4-12-66

CONFIDENTIAL

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (100-35356)

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr.
SM - C

Re Chicago teletypes 4/7, 8/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine (9) copies and for Atlanta three (3) copies of a self-explanatory Letterhead Memorandum concerning captioned individual and his activities in Chicago as known during the period for 4/6-8/66. Also enclosed for the Bureau is a copy of the envelope and letter received by [redacted] b7C

[redacted] b1

The Special Agent monitoring the broadcast on 4/10/66, was SA [redacted] b7C

The investigative Clerk conducting [redacted] b7
on 6/4/65, was IC [redacted] b7

[redacted] reviewed
on 6/4/65, by IC [redacted]

(2) - Bureau (Encl. 11) (RM)
(1 - 100-438794) (SCLC)
3 - Atlanta (Encl. 3) (RM)
(1 - 100-5718) (SCLC)
- Chicago
(1 - 105-1623)
(1 - 157-413)
(1 - 157-New) ([redacted] b7C

157-2466

INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

10 APR 13 1966

NOT RECORDED 180 APR 19 1966

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, ~~SECRET SERVICE~~
DEPT: JSD, CRD, RNO, STATE, LEGAT LONDON

DATE FORW: 4/13/66
BY FORW: RJS

CLASS. & EXT. BY 5180 RCB/LBW
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2, 4, 2
DATE OF REVIEW 4-12-86

ENCLOSURE

89 APR 19 1966

Received: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

A case is being opened concerning [redacted] b7C in which further background information will be developed, and through which the Chicago Office will follow local investigation.

b7C Based on available information, Chicago cannot identify [redacted] with prior file references.

Copies of this Letterhead Memorandum are being disseminated locally to the United States Attorney, United States Secret Service and Region I, 113th INTC Group.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Chicago, Illinois
April 12, 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

On April 7, 1966, [redacted] advised the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation as follows: b7

Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) arrived in Chicago during the evening of April 6, 1966. On April 7, 1966, King spent the morning at the offices of the Chicago Urban League, and in the afternoon, King was to appear before a gathering of students and faculty at the University of Illinois, Circle Campus, Chicago, Illinois.

In the evening of April 7, 1966, King was to appear at a church located on Chicago's south side, the purpose of or details regarding this meeting were not known.

[redacted] b1

[redacted] b1

[redacted] b1

REV. & EXT. BY 5150 RCB / [illegible]
REASON - FCIM 11, 1.3 [illegible]
DATE OF REVIEW 4-12-86

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

ENCLOSURE

157-2466

CONFIDENTIAL

Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.

CONFIDENTIAL

The "Chicago Daily News" on April 6, 1966, contai[illegible] an article stating that on April 5, 1966, an order was [illegible] down in Circuit Court, Chicago, Illinois, enjoining Marti[illegible] Luther King and the SCLC from interfering with the opera[illegible] of an apartment building at 1321 South Homan, Chicago, [illegible] or collecting rents from the tenants at this building [illegible] an accounting was ordered for rents which had been coll[illegible] and repair expenditures made by King since he took over [illegible] building.

This article reported that a SCLC official at [illegible] Atlanta, Georgia, had advised that the court order would be contested and that this was only the first step to build up [illegible] a body of legal precedent to guarantee tenants' rights.

On April 8, 1966, [redacted] advised that King was to attend a SCLC workshop at Woodstock, Illinois, during the afternoon of April 8, 1966, and at 8:40 p.m. King was scheduled to depart Chicago, Illinois, for Atlanta, Geor[illegible]

On April 10, 1966, a program "Sunday with Martin Luther King" was aired on radio station WAAF-AM from 10:00 [illegible] to 10:15 a.m.

In monitoring this program, it was noted that it consisted of the sermon by King pointing out that just as Christianity had overcome evil, Negroes would overcome the evil standing between them and freedom.

Listeners were requested to contribute to the SCLC at 123 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois, and were invited to tune in each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. to hear Martin Luther King.

The "Daily News" on April 5, 1966, contained an article identifying Laverson Cornelius, 7354 South [illegible] Chicago, Illinois, as one of the sponsors of a "Negro [illegible] Unit" in Chicago known as "The Deacons of Defense and Justice" (DDJ). Cornelius was reported in this article as saying the deacons are primed to fight a war if necessary to protect Negro rights.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

XXXXX
XXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

3 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- [x] Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- [ ] Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- [ ] Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- [ ] Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consulation to the following government agency(ies); _____ _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

_____

_____

- [ ] For your information: _____

_____

- [ ] The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

_____

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FBI/D

Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

b7
b7

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

FD-529 (10-20-78)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

4 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☑ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(D) with no segreg[illegible] material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consulation to the following government agency(ies); _____ _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

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_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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DELETED PAGE(S)
NO DUPLICATION FEE
FOR THIS PAGE
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 4-13-66

Transmit the following in CONFIDENTIAL
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED, aka Deacons For Defense And Justice, Incorporated
RM (ORGANIZATION)

Re Chicago airtel to Bureau 4/5/66, captioned as above and New Orleans teletype to Bureau, dated 3/31/66, captioned "RACIAL SITUATION, BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA."

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of a LHM and nine copies for New Orleans concerning captioned matter.

[redacted] in the enclosed LHM is [redacted] (protect - requested), and [redacted] is [redacted] (protect - requested). b1 b7C b7D

(4) - Bureau (Encl. 9) (RM)
(1 - 157-6-33) (RACIAL SITUATION, BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA)
9 - New Orleans (Encl. 9) (Info) (RM)
(1 - 157-3290) (DM)
(1 - 173-201) (RACIAL SITUATION, BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA)
(1 - 157-) ([redacted] REC 70 157-2466-125
(1 - 157-) ([redacted] b7C
(1 - 157-) ([redacted]
(1 - 157-) ([redacted]
(1 - 157-) ([redacted]
(1 - 157-) ([redacted]
(1 - 157-) ([redacted] CONFIDENTIAL 15 APR 15 1966
3 - Chicago
(1 - 157-673) (RACIAL SITUATION, BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA)
(1 - 157-413)

LGR/laj
(16)

9 ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 Sal / 4 7 23 80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 4-13-86

Approved: Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b1

One copy of this LHM is being designated for Region I, 113th INTC Group, Secret Service, and the USA, all Chicago, Illinois.

LEAD

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will ascertain whether a Chapter of the DDJ is actually formed in Chicago and the Bureau and New Orleans will be kept advised of all pertinent developments.

Chicago files contain no pertinent information concerning [redacted] or [redacted] b7C

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

CONFIDENTIAL

Chicago, Illinois
April 13, 1966

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED, ALSO KNOWN AS DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

Reference is made to memorandum dated April 5, 1966, at Chicago, Illinois.

An article appeared in the "Chicago Daily News", a Chicago, Illinois, newspaper, dated April 5, 1966, which in part stated that a Chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated (DDJ), had been formed at Chicago and that LaVernon Cornelius of 7354 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, was one of the sponsors of the Chicago branch. The article also stated that the headquarters for the Chicago Chapter would be located at 30 West Washington, Chicago.

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1(pb) for 7-23-8
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 4-13-8

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Xerox APR 19 1966

157-2466-125

CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED, ALSO KNOWN AS DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted]

The following article appeared in the April 6, 1966, issue of the "Chicago Daily News", a Chicago, Illinois, newspaper:

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DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED, ALSO KNOWN AS DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

CONFIDENTIAL

"'Not Trying to Start Movement in North'

"Negro Vigilantes Here Will Aid Dixie Fight

"The Deacons for Defense and Justice, an armed Negro self-defense organization, is starting a Chicago branch 'to help in the struggle in the South,' says president Charles Sims.

"'We're not trying to come up here and start a movement,' said the massive, soft-voiced native of Bogalusa, La., at a press conference in a home at 7354 S. Michigan.

"Sims said the Deacons hope to raise money and manpower here for civil rights campaigns in Bogalusa and other Southern cities.

"With him at the press conference was A. Z. Young, president of the Bogalusa Voters League. The Voters League is the local civil rights group in Bogalusa, focus of marches and demonstrations last summer.

"Sims said the Deacons were organized when local police could not protect Negroes and civil rights workers.

"He said armed Deacons patrol Negro neighborhoods, guard the homes of civil rights leaders and watch Negro churches 'so they don't get bombed.'

"Sims and Young said they are trying to raise money for the defense of 90 children and six adults going on trial in Bogalusa Friday on charges growing out of demonstrations last October.

CONFIDENTIAL

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"They said they have no money to pay fines in the event of a guilty verdict.

"Young said he also was seeking support for a 105-mile march from Bogalusa to the Louisiana state capital in Baton Rouge, to take place within 60 days.

"'We're going to clean up the whole state of Louisiana,' said Young. "The whole state is out of line.'

"THE BOGALUSA leaders said they wanted to confer with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King 'to ask his support in out struggle in Bogalusa.' King was expected to return to Chicago Thursday.

"Sims said he 'hadn't planned on' working with King in Chicago. 'We want Dr. King's help for Bogalusa,' he said.

"King, who preaches nonviolence, has been critical of the Deacons, but Young said 'King might have been misled about the Deacons and the Voters League in Bogalusa.'

"'The Bogalusa Voters League is nonviolent, just like Dr. King's organization,' said Young. 'And the Deacons are nonviolent -- up to a point.'

"In Chicago, Sims suggested, a Deacons' chapter might try to register more Negro voters.

"'I understand Dick Gregory is running for mayor,' he said. 'If there was a Deacons chapter here, it could endorse Mr. Gregory.'

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

"Sims said it was 'not true' that the Deacons were a black Ku Klux Klan.

"'We're a defensive organization, organized to defend people,' he said. 'We have a constitutional right to defend out home, our children and our lives.'

"He said the organization has chapters in many Southern cities. 'In the South,' he said, 'the (white) man is making us pick up arms in order to live.'

"While the Northern Negro can use ballots instead of bullets, he said, 'there's a need for Deacons anywhere in the country where black men exist.'"

The following article appeared in the April 8, 1966, issue of the "Chicago Daily News", a Chicago, Illinois, newspaper:

"Prince Hall Masons Deny Deacons Link

"The head of the state Prince Hall Masons has strongly denied his organization has any connection with the Deacons for Defense and Justice, a Southern-based Negro vigilante group that reportedly is starting a chapter here.

"Oscar Stanton DePriest, grand master of the organization, said, 'We most certainly disown any intention of affiliation with any group... which carries guns or other weapons.'

"The Deacons are said to carry guns in their fight against the Ku Klux Klan.

"LaVernon Cornelius, worshipful master of the Olive Branch Lodge 94 of Prince Hall, had said that a recent visit to Chicago by several Deacons was backed by his lodge.

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DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED, ALSO KNOWN AS
DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED

CONFIDENTIAL

"'I have ordered a sweeping investigation into the affairs of Olive Branch Lodge,' DePriest said Thursday night at the Masons office, 4227 S. Cottage Grove.

"'I have already contacted several members (of Lodge 94) who say they know nothing concerning any invitation to the so-called Deacons from Louisiana.'

"DE PRIEST SAID he had ordered Cornelius to 'cease and desist' any activity connected with the Deacons and his capacity as worshipful master. Cornelius was not present at the press conference.

"DePriest said he would ask for the minutes of past meetings of Lodge 94, which has about 100 members. He said the over-all membership in Prince Hall Masons in the state is about 10,000.

"Meanwhile, Mary Lowe, who manages the building at 30 W. Washington, where Cornelius reported the Deacon chapter was located, said there is no such group in the building."

[redacted] that it was (c) ascertained that there is no Office of the DDJ at 30 West Washington, Chicago. [redacted] that no (c) information has been received which would indicate that a chapter of the DDJ has been formed at Chicago. b1

On April 11, 1966, [redacted] b7C b7D and [redacted] that no information has been developed (c) b1 that would indicate that a chapter of the DDJ has been formed in Chicago or that the DDJ has obtained any office space in Chicago.

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DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED, ALSO KNOWN AS DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

CONFIDENTIAL

Confidential informant who are acquainted with certain racial matters in the Chicago, Illinois area, advised during April, 1966, that to their knowledge, no chapter of the DDJ has been formed in Chicago.

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FD-271 (Rev. 11-29-61)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Chicago, Illinois
April 13, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

CONFIDENTIAL

Title — DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTI
INCORPORATED

Character — RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION

Reference — Memorandum dated and caption as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

b1
b7(c)

[redacted] is [redacted]

[redacted] is [redacted]

Conf.

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FBI

Date: [illegible]

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

_____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: S.A. COLUMBIA (157-1115) (P)

SUBJECT: [illegible] OF FOUR HILLSBORO
[illegible] OF RIOTS,
[illegible] O. S. C., 4/7-8/66
[illegible] - RIOT

[illegible] Columbia airtel to Bureau, [illegible]-[illegible]-66; and Columbia [illegible] Bureau 4-11-66, entitled, "[illegible], RIOT, [illegible], [illegible] - RIOT."

On [illegible]-15-66, [redacted] advised SA [redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] at Orangeburg, S. C., he was informed that the [illegible] had been beaten by fourteen Negroes claiming to be [illegible] and were protecting their

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
(1 - 157-[illegible])
(1 - 157-7 - [illegible], RIOT)
(1 - 157-[illegible] - [illegible] Riots Inner Urban Areas)
(1 - 157-[illegible] - Acquisition of Weapons)
(1 - [redacted] b7D
(1 - 157-[illegible])
(1 - 157- - Deacons for Defense and [illegible])

157-[illegible]

NOT RECORDED
[illegible] 21 1966

[illegible]

C. C. Wick (CC90L 94D)

APR 16 1966

ORIGINAL FILED IN

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

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CO [illegible]-KC

Civil Rig ts when the Klansmen were putting up posters advertising a Klan rally to be held on 4-6-63. [redacted]

Informant stated that the public rally held on 4-6-63 attended by approximately 300 individuals, went off without incident even though approximately 100 Klansmen were armed during entire rally.

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

Due to the sensitive nature of this information, we feel are being set forth for the [redacted] Division at this present time and this information is not being disseminated until further verification that other persons other than those mentioned above have access to this information.

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MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI(157-2466)

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: 4-22-66

FROM : SAC, JACKSON(157-3465)(P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka
RM

Class 1-4

b7C 8/29/52

Rerep SA [redacted] 3-28-66, at New Orleans.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM with two copies being submitted for New Orleans. One copy each is being forwarded to ICG, Jackson and Secret Service, Jackson.

[redacted] (a)

b

Other individuals set forth in the LHM were interviewed by SA [redacted]. b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

LEAD:

JACKSON DIVISION

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gsl/ff 7-23-80
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 4-23-86

At Jackson, Mississippi

Will maintain contact with sources to obtain background concerning possible organization of Deacons of Defense and Justice if chapters in Mississippi organized and attempt to determine leadership, strength of members, as well as arms acquired.

157-2466-126

(2)-Bureau(Enc. 8)(RM)
2-New Orleans(157-3290)(Enc. 2)(RM)
5-Jackson(1-157-3465)
[redacted] (c) (1-157-3370)

b1

REC 37

JOI:hke
(9)

ENCLOSURE

EX 109

55 MAY 2 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-108-01

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Jackson, Mississippi

April 22, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS

[redacted] Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) [redacted] on April 13, 1966, that the MFDP, to his knowledge, has no one in their organization who is a member of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ). He said the MFDP has been the center of the civil rights movement within the State of Mississippi for the past year along with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and there have been no attempts made to recruit chapters of the DDJ. To the best of his knowledge, there have been no members of the DDJ from Bogalusa, Homer, or Jonesboro, Louisiana, in Jackson for the past several months attempting to recruit members for the DDJ.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] that no additional information has been received concerning forming chapters in the State of Mississippi since last contacted. The source advised that there are no chapters of the DDJ within the State of Mississippi. The source advised that the NAACP within the State of Mississippi has refused to have any association with the DDJ in Louisiana and there is no one in the MFDP strong enough to form a chapter of the DDJ within the State of Mississippi.

b1

(C)

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CLASS. & EXT. BY SP4 Sgt 1/4 7-23 80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 4-12-82

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b1

[redacted] that he has traveled throughout the State (c)
f Mississippi on behalf of the civil rights movement and he has [redacted]
eceived no information that chapters have been organized within
he State of Mississippi.

[redacted] b1

[redacted] The source advised that there has (c)
een no information obtained concerning the existence of any
J chapters or actual members. The source advised that daily contact
had with Negro and white civil rights workers.

[redacted] Jackson, Mississippi,
[redacted] advised on April 22, 1966, he could furnish b7c
pertinent information concerning the DDJ. He said that since b7
e DDJ held a meeting at the Masonic Temple, Lynch Street, Jackson,
August 29, 1965, there has been no other efforts, to his
owledge, to recruit members. [redacted] stated that he has attempted
determine if the NAACP and the MFDP have recruited members of
e DDJ for protection in the Jackson area and he has been unable
substantiate [redacted] any activity on behalf of the

[redacted] advised on
ril 22, 1966, he could furnish no pertinent information concerning
e DDJ not previously furnished. He said there have been several
ial situations occurring within the State of Mississippi the
st several months, but [redacted] has
sclosed no activity on behalf of the DDJ.

This document contains neither recommendations nor
nclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is
ned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be
tributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

Domestic Intelligence Division

CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 4/18/66

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (c)

Attached describes reliability of sources, per Bureau's request. Department being advised. (U)

JEH:CSH:LASS. & EVT. BY SP1 [illegible]
REL.
DATE OF REVIEW 4-17-86

CONFIDENTIAL

FL. WASH DC --

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 17 1966

FBI PHILA

558 PM U R G E N T 4-17-66 EDTA CONFIDENTIAL

TO DIRECTOR, BALTIMORE, NEWARK AND NEW YORK

NEW YORK VIA WASHINGTON

FROM PHILADELPHIA \157-341\ 2P

EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gsh/jfk 7-23-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 2
DATE OF REVIEW 4-17-86

UKA, KKKK, RM. (KLAN)

RE PH TEL TO DIRECTOR AND BALTIMORE FOUR FOUR, SIXTYSIX.

[redacted]

b1

[redacted]

(C)

[redacted]

(C)

END PAGE ONE

CONFIDENTIAL

124

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c) b1

[redacted] (c)

NEWARK ADVISE IF KLAN RALLY PLANNED FOR FOUR TWENTYTHREE, SIXTYSIX OR FIVE TWENTYTHREE, SIXTYSIX IN SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY. IF SO ALERT LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

NY, NK, AND BA ALERT SOURCES IN KLAN AND BLACK NATIONALIST GROUPS RE ABOVE AND CONSIDER STEPS TO PROTECT PHYSICAL WELFARE OF ANY CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES THAT MAY HAVE PLANNED TO ATTEND SUCH A KLAN RALLY.

END

WA FOR RELAY BJH

FBI WASH DC --

TU

CONFIDENTIAL

FBI

Date: 4/18/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL REGISTERED
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (~~157-370~~)

FROM: SAC, NEWARK (157-1892)

SUBJECT: UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA,
INC., KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX
KLAN (UKA)
RM (KLAN)

Re Philadelphia teletype dated 4/17/66 and Newark airtels to the Bureau dated 4/8/66 and 4/15/66.

b7D

[redacted] No information has been developed indicating any rallies by the UKA, or other Klan organizations, prior to May 20 - 23, 1966. A farm in Fairfield Township, which is in southern New Jersey, has been leased by the UKA for the period May 20 - 23, 1966, as reflected in referenced Newark airtels. The rally is expected to be held on Saturday, May 21, 1966.

Newark files contain no information concerning the existence of a Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) organization in Paterson or any other city in New Jersey. Philadelphia will recontact the "other sources" referred in referenced teletype and furnish any specific information developed regarding DDJ activity in the New Jersey area.

3 - Bureau (RM)
1 - Baltimore (157-875) (Info) (RM)
1 - New York (157-1558) (Info) (RM)
2 - Philadelphia (157-341) (RM)
2 - Newark
(1 - 157-1922) (DDJ)
RFK:jan
(9)

16 APR 19 1966

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

NK 157-1892

Newark sources alerted. Bureau and interested offices will be kept advised of any pertinent developments.

FBI WASH DC --

FBI PHILA

10\03 AM EST URGENT 4-18-66 CIF

TO DIRECTOR, NEW YORK, NEWARK, BALTIMORE, AND NEW ORLEANS

NEW YORK VIA WASHINGTON

FROM PHILADELPHIA /157-341/ 2P

UKA, KKKK\ RM

RE PHILADELPHIA TELETYPE, APRIL SEVENTEEN LAST.

[redacted] PHILA-(-)

DELPHIA NEWSPAPER ARTICLE IN QUOTE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER END QUOTE, APRIL SEVENTEEN LAST REFLECTING A MILITANT NEGRO ORGANIZATION IN THE SOUTH HAD VOWED TO MAKE PHILADELPHIA A QUOTE HOT SPOT END QUOTE AND THAT A PHILADELPHIA SCHOOLTEACHER WOULD HEAD THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE /DFDAJ/ IN PHILADELPHIA, AND THAT HE WOULD MEET WITH JESSE GRAY IN NEWARK TO SET UP PHILADELPHIA OPERATION.

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

ADVISED THAT QUOTE NEGRO RIFLE CLUBS END QUOTE ARE, ACCORDING

END PAGE ONE

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

RELAYED TO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE TWO

TO EARNEST THOMAS, DFDAJ SPOKESMAN, BEING SET UP AND THAT A RALLY OF A NEGRO RIFLE GROUP IS SUPPOSED TO TAKE PLACE IN MILITARY PARK, NEWARK, N.J., ON APRIL THIRTY NEXT AT TWO P.M.

[redacted] b7c

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (c)

EARNEST THOMAS IN ARTICLE DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS AN OFFICIAL OF DFDAJ, JONESBORO, LA.

NEW ORLEANS ALERT SOURCES FOR ANY PLANNED ACTIVITY OF DFDAJ IN PENNSYLVANIA, NEW YORK, AND NEW JERSEY. CODED TEL REGARDING IDENTITY OF FIRST SOURCE FOLLOWS.

END.

WA FOR RELAY

OTHER STAS ADVISED.

WA...SXC R RELAY

FBI WASH DC --

OK CLR\

CC- MR. SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

1 - Mr. Marsh
1 - Mr. Shackelford

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE 8/20/80 Class 4

To: SACs Newark
New Orleans (157-3290)
Philadelphia (157-1678)
Washington Field (157-794)

From: Director, FBI (157-2466)

REC 27 Ex 112

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

Reptels 4/17,18/63 captioned [illegible]

Information available to the Bureau from the [illegible] does not indicate a Deacons chapter exists in [illegible] or Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

[redacted] b1 (C)

[redacted] b1 (C)

1 - Bufile 157-4430 (UX-KKKK)
1 - Bufile 157-33022 (OBP)

RLS:deh
(13)

SEE NOTE PAGE 2.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible] 1-23-86
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.
DATE OF REVIEW 4-21-86

CONFIDENTIAL

MAILED 12 MAY 5 1966 COMM-FBI

54 MAY 5 1966

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Airtel to NK, NO, PH and WFO
Re: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
157-2400

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (C)

While the subject matter is not identical, it probably is pertinent that several of the same individuals appear to be involved in both incidents.

Newark and New Orleans should immediately contact appropriate sources and determine if a [illegible] Justice chapter is known to exist in Patterson, [illegible] planned for Philadelphia.

Philadelphia should press sources [illegible] activities described in referenced teletype [illegible] connected with the Deacons or merely a Philadelphia [illegible] nationalist group organized by [redacted] and [redacted] [illegible] Deacons name for publicity purposes. b7C

WFO should immediately contact [redacted] [illegible] information available to him concerning this matter, [illegible] in view of his presence at the meeting referred to [illegible].

All offices should expeditiously [illegible] this matter and the Bureau and New Orleans, [illegible] the Deacons case, be kept promptly advised of [illegible] developments.

Philadelphia must insure local [illegible] fully advised of all pertinent developments [illegible]. Results of investigations should be furnished [illegible] caption in form suitable for dissemination.

NOTE:

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (C)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

FBI

Date: 4/20/55 CONFIDENTIAL

(Type in plaintext or code)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

TO : DIRECTOR

FROM : SAC, [redacted] (65-[redacted])

SUBJECT: [redacted]

[redacted]

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 Sec 1-1 7-23 50
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 4-20-56

CONFIDENTIAL

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

(c) [redacted]

b1

[redacted] will be kept advised.

[redacted]

[redacted] (c) b1

[redacted] (c) b1

A characterization of [redacted] is to be detailed herein.

A article appeared in the "[redacted] Inquirer," a daily newspaper, on April 17, 1966, on page one of the Second Section.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible] 7-23-80
REASON - FOIM 11, 1-2, 4, 2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 4-20-86

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

[illegible] WILLIS OF AMERICA, INC. [illegible]
OF THE NATIONAL [illegible] (CORE) [illegible]

headline, "Negro Group Warns [illegible] City, The Spot." The story quotes [illegible] WILLIS, of Bonneboro, Louisiana, an official of DDJ, as stating that, "Philadelphia will be the hot spot in America this summer." He claimed in the article that the police in Philadelphia hate and harass the Negro community. "The Philadelphia power structure should be aware that if there was trouble, the Negro will defend himself against the police."

[illegible] also said that the [illegible] organization in [illegible] Philadelphia [illegible] Reverend [illegible] of the DDJ's. The speech which was mentioned in the article, however, he was quoted as saying he would have "something to announce in about two weeks." The article also said that [illegible] an organizational meeting in Philadelphia [illegible] on April 17, [illegible] would be [illegible] plans for the [illegible] the White House during April [illegible] 2, [illegible] in Washington, D.C., to prove to the [illegible] that there were no people from the Negro ghetto included in the conference.

The article ended with a statement by [illegible], President of the Philadelphia [illegible] Organization, [illegible], "I cannot imagine [illegible] Bonneboro, [illegible] of Louisiana, [illegible] about Philadelphia [illegible] I can [illegible] suggest that their Negro citizens [illegible]."

[redacted] (e) b1

[illegible] WILLIS, of the DDJ, [illegible] Washington, [illegible] Chicago, [illegible] Louisiana, [illegible] organization [illegible]. (CLARENCE B. [illegible], of [illegible], Louisiana, also a member of the DDJ, was the [illegible] speaker at the March [illegible] Secretary [illegible] speech. Getting [illegible] and [illegible] of being so [illegible] attack against [illegible] individual [illegible] of [illegible] in the South [illegible] Dallas. [illegible] was no [illegible] any remarks [illegible] and an [illegible] of [illegible] in Philadelphia. [illegible] the purpose [illegible] the group directly [illegible], also, [illegible] listened to [illegible] contributions to the [illegible], an [illegible].)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

UNITED MEANS OF AMERICA, INC.
OF THE NEW BLACK MAN (UNITED MEANS)

[redacted] (C)

b1
b7
b7c

The "Philadelphia Inquirer" story also stated that UNITED MEANS had been in Philadelphia several times recently; however, [redacted] (C) and [redacted] advised on March 17, 1969, they had no information that the BPU's were contemplating any organization of their group in Philadelphia.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

FD-302 (Rev. 1-10-61)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

April 20, 1966

Title: UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, MEMBERS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (UNITED KLANS)

Character:

Reference: Philadelphia memorandum dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

CONFIDENTIAL

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
5010-104

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) DATE: 4/25/66

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184)(C)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM
(OO: New Orleans)

Re Los Angeles letter to Bureau 2/31/66, with enclosed letterhead memorandum.

Enclosed for the Bureau are an original and seven copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) concerning information received from [redacted] Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit (ATTU), U. S. Treasury Department, Los Angeles. Three copies of the LHM are being designated for the office of origin, New Orleans, and one copy each to appropriate intelligence agencies.

This LHM is being classified confidential because this information could possibly identify the ATTU source.

Inasmuch as [redacted] source feels that he received false information in the beginning, Los Angeles is closing this case until pertinent information is received concerning this matter.

ATF

3 - Bureau (Encs.-3)(REGISTERED)
1 - Dallas (Enc.-1)(REGISTERED)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290)(Encs.-3)(REGISTERED)
1 - Los Angeles
MJT:nlb
(7)

AGENT [illegible]
DATE [illegible] 5/2/66
HOW [illegible] RLS
BY: [illegible]

157-2466-129

REC 37 APR 27

ST-105

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

50 MAY 4 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Los Angeles, California
April 25, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS.

On April 19, 1966, [redacted] representative of Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, U. S. Treasury Department, Los Angeles, California, advised that his source has been unable to obtain any information concerning the shipment of machine guns from the Czechoslovakian Firearms Manufacturer to the Deacons of Defense and Justice. His source said that he now feels that he received false information from the beginning and does not feel that this matter has any merit. His source said that he would continue to be alert for information reflecting upon the matter.

ATF referral

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 ser 1 ltr
ON 7-23-80

157-[illegible]

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-108

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

DATE: 4/28/66

FROM : SAC, WFO (157-801) (RUC)

SUBJECT: [redacted] b7C
RACIAL MATTERS

Re WFO airtel and LHM both dated 3/31/66, captioned "Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc." (DDJ).

On 4/26/66, [redacted] b7C b7D stated ERNEST THOMAS, organizer for the DDJ, who had been living in Chicago, Illinois, has returned to Bogalusa, Louisiana, to reside.

In view of the above, WFO will conduct no further investigation.

2 - Bureau
2 - New Orleans (RM)
1 - Chicago (RM) (Info)
2 - WFO
(1-157-794) (DDJ)

HHK:dab
(7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-82 BY SP1 Schlifer

REC-18 157-2466-130

EX-104

11 APR 29 1966

69 MAY 9 1966

SUBV CONTROL (INFO)

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Wick

DATE: 4-26-66

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE

[redacted] called and advised as follows: He stated that on Saturday, 4-23-66, he received an anonymous long-distance telephone call. He stated that he ascertained from the operator that this call emanated from a pay telephone in Newark, New Jersey.

According to [redacted], the anonymous caller merely advised him that the Deacons for Defense are holding a meeting in Military Park, Newark, New Jersey, at 2 p.m. on April 30, 1966. According to the anonymous caller, the word was being circulated in regard to this meeting, "pocket weapons only."

[redacted] had no further information regarding this call and just wanted us to have the benefit of this information.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this memorandum be forwarded to the Domestic Intelligence Division for their information and guidance.

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. Sullivan

REC-1 157-2466-131

11 APR 29 1966

DGH:jol
(7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-23-80 BY SP1/pl/jv

CRIME RESEARCH

1-CC NO
1-CC PA

PLS: all

4/27/66

1 - Mr. Martin
1 - Mr. Shackelford

airtel

REC-7

To: SAC, Newark

From: Director, FBI (157-2466) — 131

(U) DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

ReNHtel 4/18/66 captioned "UKA, KKKK, RM" and Bureau airtel 4/20/66.

[redacted] advised the Bureau he received an anonymous telephone call from a Newark, New Jersey, pay telephone station on 4/23/66. The caller advised [redacted] that the "Deacons for Defense" are holding a meeting in Military Park, Newark, New Jersey, at 2 p.m., 4/30/66. The anonymous caller stated word is being circulated concerning this meeting, "pocket weapons only." No additional information was available concerning this call or the caller.

Newark should insure that local police authorities are made fully aware of the above information concerning this propose meeting and any other information available to the Newark Office in this regard.

Newark should closely follow this matter through police and other logical sources and the Bureau should be promptly advised of any pertinent developments in form suitable for dissemination.

1 - New Orleans (157-3290)
1 - Philadelphia (157-1638)

1 - Bufile 157-4430 (UK, KKKK)
1 - Bufile 157-3022 (OBP)

RLS:deh
(8)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-80 BY SP1 gsl/fr

b7

FJB

APR 27 1966
COMM-FBI

57 MAY 10 1966

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI

Date: 4/22/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RM (ORGANIZATION)

Re Philadelphia teletype to Bureau captioned "UKA, KKKK; RM", dated 4/18/66, and Bureau airtel to Newark, New Orleans, Philadelphia and WFO, dated 4/20/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 8 copies and for Philadelphia, New York, WFO and Newark are 2 copies each of a LHM regarding interview of [redacted] b7C b7D

A copy of the LHM is being furnished locally to Secret Service & ICG, New Orleans.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 8)
2 - Philadelphia (Enc. 2) (Info)
2 - New York (Enc. 2) (Info)
2 - Newark (Enc. 2) (Info)
2 - WFO (Enc. 2) (Info)
2 - New Orleans
MRG:pd
(12)

NO
4/27/66
RLS:cd.

REC 5 157-2466-132

ST-105

APR 27 1966

AGENCY: ACS, CIV. DIV; SEC. SERV.
CRD.
DATE FILED: 4/27/66
HOW FILED: RLS
BY: RLS:cd

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-23-80 BY SP1 gal/jw

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
April 22, 1966

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

On April 22, 1966, [redacted] advised that he has no knowledge of any planned activities of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc. (DDJ) in the Pennsylvania, New Jersey or New York area.

b7C
b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] advised that Earnest Thomas is the vice president of the Jonesboro, Louisiana, DDJ, of which Percey Bradford is the president. He stated that Thomas is presently in Jonesboro, Louisiana, and he has not indicated to him that he has any knowledge of planned activities of the DDJ in the Pennsylvania, New York or New Jersey area. [redacted] emphatically stated that if any DDJ

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-80 BY SP1 gal/lk

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ENCLOSURE

157-2466 - 12

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE, INC.

such plans did exist he would certainly be aware of them. [redacted] advised that he himself has no desire to become active [redacted] in that area and has heard no [redacted] leaders of the DDJ expres[redacted] a desire to do so.

b7[redacted]
b7D

He further advised that he is not aware of any proposed rallies in the New York or New Jersey area of any Negro groups.

[redacted] said that [redacted] is unknown to him.

DECODED COPY

☐ CABLEGRAM ☒ RADIO ☐ TELETYPE

R-105

[illegible]ENT 4-21-66 6:26 PM

[illegible] DIRECTOR (157-9-11)

FROM CLEVELAND (157-513) 212121

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM, INTERNAL SECURITY, DISRUPTION OF HATE GROUPS (DEACONS FOR DEFENSE; MEDGAR EVERS RIFLE CLUB).

CLEVELAND DIVISION IS IN POSSESSION OF COPY OF LETTER BEING CIRCULATED UNDER LETTERHEAD OF THE LEGITIMATE ASSOCIATION OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES IN THE CLEVELAND AREA, "THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST OF GREATER CLEVELAND", SIGNED BY CHARLES A. RAWLINGS, ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF A GROUP CALLED "SUPPORT OUR YOUTH," AS THE RESULT OF DIALOGUES CONDUCTED BY REV. PAUL YOUNGER WITH PEOPLE FROM THE JFK HOUSE, CLEVELAND. THIS LETTER STATES JFK HOUSE WAS OPENED SEPTEMBER 1[illegible], 1964, BY LOUIS ROBINSON AND OTHERS AND WAS CLOSED IN FEBRUARY 1[illegible], 1965 DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS AND "POLICE HARASSMENT." LETTER FURTHER STATES THE GROUP HAS DECIDED TO RAISE OVER $1,000 PER MONTH TO BE GIVEN TO JFK HOUSE WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED. LETTER CONCLUDES WITH AN APPEAL FOR PLEDGES OF AT LEAST $10 MONTHLY.

ORIGINAL FILED IN

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-23-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

157-[illegible]

NOT RECORDED 180 APR 28 1966

55 MAY 13 1966

Information contained in the above message is not to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that [illegible] be paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

DECODED COPY

☐ ☐ CABLEGRAM XX RADIO ☐

PAGE TWO FROM CLEVELAND 212121

IS BEING SENT TO PROTESTANT CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS TO CIVIC GROUPS IN CLEVELAND AND SUBURBS.

REV. YOUNGER AND REV. RAWLINGS ARE BOTH REGARDED AS DISRUPTIVE INFLUENCES BY THE LEGITIMATE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND HAVE BEEN MILITANTLY ACTIVE IN RACIAL DEMONSTRATIONS AND CIVIL DISORDERS IN THE CLEVELAND AREA.

[redacted]

HARLLEL ROBERT JONES, OTHER LEADER OF JFK [redacted] WHO IS SOLICITING ORGANIZATIONS PERSONALLY, HAS RECENTLY DECLARED IN WKYC TV TAPED INTERVIEW, NOT YET RELEASED, THAT HE IS VICE PRESIDENT OF DEACONS FOR DEFENSE, CLEVELAND, WHICH ORGANIZATION HE STATED IS ARMED TO PROTECT NEGROES AGAINST KKK AND POLICE, WHOM HE STATED ARE AGENTS OF KKK. JONES HAS PREDICTED RIOTS IN CLEVELAND IN 1966 AND STATED FIRST ONES TO SUFFER WILL BE THE "UNCLE TOM" NEGROES. [redacted]

b7

b7

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

DECODED COPY

☐ TELETYPE ☐ CABLEGRAM ☒ RADIO ☐ TELETYPE

PAGE THREE FROM CLEVELAND 212121

RE POLICE HARASSMENT OF JFK HOUSE, IN 1964, MORE THAN [redacted] FIFTY BURGLARIES WERE SOLVED WITH ARREST OF YOUNG NEGROES FROM [redacted] JFK HOUSE WHO CONFESSED. IN 1965, TWO YOUNG WHITE BOYS AND THEIR FATHER WERE BEATEN UP BY YOUNG NEGROES. ONE ADULT AND ABOUT FOURTEEN YOUNG NEGROES FROM JFK HOUSE WERE ARRESTED, AND ADMITTED GUILT IN SIGNED STATEMENTS. JUST RECENTLY, ALTHOUGH JFK HOUSE CLOSED, POLICE FOUND YOUNG MALE AND FEMALE MEMBERS HAD BROKEN IN AND WERE DRINKING AND ENGAGING IN IMMORAL ACTIVITIES. ALL ABOVE MATTERS HANDLED BY NEGRO POLICE OFFICERS.

BUREAU AUTHORITY REQUESTED TO FURNISH LEAD INFORMATION RE FOREGOING TO [redacted]

[redacted] AUTHORITY ALSO REQUESTED TO ALERT SOURCES [redacted] AND [redacted]

DIVISION BELIEVES SWIFT ACTION NECESSARY IN THIS MATTER TO [redacted]

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

DECODED COPY

PAGE FOUR FROM CLEVELAND 212121

PRECLUDE PLEDGES BEING MADE FOR SUPPORT OF JFK HOUSE BY UNSUSPECTING CHURCH GROUPS, IT BEING NOTED THAT LETTER BEING CIRCULARIZED DOES NOT GIVE TRUE PICTURE OF JFK HOUSE.

RECEIVED: 6:48 PM LJT

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be sanitized or paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

CONFIDENTIAL
FBI

Date: 4/28/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL
(Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, NEWARK (157-1922) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

Re airtel to Newark 4/27/66 and Newark airtel to Bureau with accompanying LHM 4/25/66 captioned LABOR NEGRO VANGUARD CONFERENCE, IS - C, and CIRM, IS - C.

For information of New Orleans and Philadelphia, referenced Newark airtel and LHM reflect that the LABOR NEGRO VANGUARD CONFERENCE (LNVC) is scheduled to hold a rally at Military Park, Newark, N.J., on 4/30/66 at 2:00 p.m. during which CLARENCE COGGINS, member of LNVC [redacted] will speak on behalf of his candidacy for N.J. State Senator and against U. S. policy in Vietnam. b7C

[redacted] Newark, N.J., advised 4/28/66 that captioned organization is unknown to him and that this group has not requested a permit to hold a rally in Newark, N.J. b7C b7D

[redacted] b1

Above [redacted] advised he will notify Newark FBI should he develop any information regarding captioned group and/or pertinent information on rally scheduled for 4/30/66. b7C b7D

(5) - Bureau (RM)
(1 - 100-436462) (LNVC)
(1 - 100-442529) (CIRM)
1 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Info) (RM)
1 - Philadelphia (157-1638) (Info) (RM)
2 - Newark
(1 - 100-46365) (LNVC)
REH:aas
(9)

REC-3 157-2466-133

APR 28 1966

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP4 REASON FCIM II, 1-2, 4.2 DATE OF REVIEW 4-28-80

G.O. - McR

55 MAY 26 1966

Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

FBI

Date: 4/29/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, WFO (157-794) (RUC)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS (Organization)
(OO:NEW ORLEANS)

ReBuairtel 4/20/66.

Enclosed for Bureau are 8 copies of an LHM, and two copies to each following office: Newark, New Orleans, Philadelphia.

The source in attached LHM is [redacted] He furnished his information to SA [redacted]. b7C b7D

[redacted] advised on 4/28/66, that he did not know [redacted].

WFO is conducting no further investigation in this matter.

(3) - Bureau (Enc. 8)
2 - New Orleans (Enc. 2)
2 - Newark (Enc. 2)
2 - Philadelphia (Enc. 2)
3 - WFO
(1- 157-528) ([redacted]) b7C
(1- 157-237) (Liaison Sources)

HHK:els
(12)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EX-108
DATE 7-23-86 BY AIRTEL

AGENCY: [illegible]
DATE FILMED: 5/4/66
HOW FILMED: [illegible]
BY: [illegible]

REC-25 157-2466-134

APR 29 1966

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

54 MAY 17 1966

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Washington, D. C. 20535
April 29, 1966

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

The source in this memorandum has furnished reliable information in the past.

On April 28, 1966, a source advised that he had no knowledge that a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ), existed in Patterson, New Jersey. The source had no information that the DDJ was planning to organize a chapter in Patterson, New Jersey.

The source stated the DDJ was supposedly interested in making an attempt to organize a DDJ chapter in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the near future. The source believes the DDJ hopes to organize in Northern cities for the purpose of getting some funds and not for protection against the "Klan" as was necessary in some of the Southern states. The need for protection does not exist in the Northern cities.

The source also advised that recently [redacted] b7C of Pennsylvania was supposedly planning some type of activity to show opposition to a "Klan" meeting to be held in New Jersey, date and place not known. The source stated this was not a DDJ activity against the Klan as far as the source knew.

The source stated Ernest Thomas, the DDJ organizer, who recently resided in Chicago, Illinois, has returned to Bogalusa, Louisiana, to live.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-23-90 BY SP1 [illegible]

157-2466-134

ENCLOSURE

FBI

Date: 5/26/66

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

Via _____ (Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)
(157-[redacted])

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)
(157-840)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED, aka
Deacons For Defense and Justice,
Incorporated
RM (ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] b7C
RM (ORGANIZATION)

Re Chicago airtel and Letterhead Memorandum (LHM) dated 4/13/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight (8) copies of a LHM, and two (2) copies for New Orleans concerning captioned matter.

One copy of this LHM is being designated for U.S. Secret Service and the USA, both Chicago, Illinois, and Region 1, 113th INTC Group, Evanston, Illinois.

LEAD

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will follow and report activities of DDJ and EARNEST THOMAS in Chicago.

4 - Bureau (Enc.8)
(1 - 157-[redacted]) b7C
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc.2) (INFO)
(1 - 157-[redacted])
3 - Chicago
(1 - 157-413)

LGR:mab
(9)

REC- 79 157-2466-135

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-23-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

17 MAY 28 1966

ENCLOSURE

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

56 JUN 6 1966

INT-SEC.

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI-SEC. SER. FBI, NSA, CRD, NSG

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Chicago, Illinois
May 26, 1966

157-572
157-840

[redacted]

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED, ALSO KNOWN AS
DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] b7C

RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

Reference is made to memorandum dated April 13, 1966, at Chicago, Illinois.

On May 25, 1966, [redacted] advised the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated (DDJ), recently opened an office at 1230 South Pulaski Road, Chicago, and the telephone number of the Chicago Office of the DDJ is 522-7706. Earnest Thomas, an organizer for the DDJ, reportedly is the individual who is responsible for organizing the Chicago chapter of the DDJ. Thomas is in and out of Chicago frequently, but is not known to have any permanent address in Chicago. b7 b7

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) as on file with the Secretary of State, for the State of Louisiana, reflects that the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. is a Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The location and business office address of its registered office shall be Amos Service Station (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

"This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes:

XEROX
JUN 2 1966

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-23-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

157-2466-135

ENCLOSURE

RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

[redacted] b7C

To instruct, train, teach and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principals of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the consititution and laws of the United States and the State of Louisiana, as well as the constitution and laws of any other State wherein this corporation may operate; to instruct, teach and educate said persons in the use, value and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation and duties of the citizen to the community and the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen: To further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law."

A copy of this memorandum is being furnished United States Secret Service and the Office of the United States Attorney, both Chicago, Illinois, and Region 1, 113th INTC Group, Evanston, Illinois.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FBI

5/13/66

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-6-33)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (173-201) (P)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION,
BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA
RACIAL MATTERS

Re New Orleans teletype to Bureau, 5/13/66.

Enclosed herewith are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum which is self-explanatory.

Copies also furnished Secret Service and ICG.

Agency G-2, ONI, OSI, CRD

Date Forw. MAY 18 1966

How Forw. R. S

By

RACIAL UNIT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-80 BY SP1 JAK

ENCLOSURE

157-2166

3 - Bureau (Enc. 8)
2 - New Orleans

NOT RECORDED
165 MAY 26 1966

SMC:jas
(5)

ENCLOSURE

Approved: Sent M Per
Special Agent in Charge

53 JUN 1 1966

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
May 13, 1966

RACIAL SITUATION,
BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA

[redacted] Bogalusa, Louisiana, advised on May 13, 1966, that shortly after 1:00 AM, May 13, 1966, a shooting had occurred outside the Acme Cafe located in the 400 hundred block of Columbia Street, Bogalusa, and there were no injuries.

b7C
b7

[redacted] stated prior to the shooting, three Negro males, [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] had entered the Acme Cafe, which is currently under Federal court order to integrate. [redacted] states no incidents took place in the Cafe; however, [redacted] shortly after entering, stepped outside of the Cafe and was apparently struck by some unknown individual. Thereafter, [redacted] and [redacted] left the Cafe, and the three individuals went to their automobile. [redacted] stated apparently shots were then fired at the Acme Cafe from the direction of the car which the Negroes had entered.

[redacted] Bogalusa, Louisiana, advised that at about 4:00 AM, May 13, 1966, about 20 Negroes went back to the Acme Cafe, but that no incidents occurred.

[redacted] Bogalusa, Louisiana, advised that at 12:00 noon, a group of 11 or 12 Negroes entered various cafes in Bogalusa and as of that time, 11 were eating at the La Plaza Cafe, and no incidents were reported.

[redacted] advised that in view of the shooting which occurred at the Acme Cafe, the shooting into

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE_____BY_____

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

157-2466

RACIAL SITUATION
BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA

the residence of [redacted] which occurred on April [redacted] 1966, the activities of the Negroes in the Bogalusa Voters League and the fact that information indicated Charles Sims, [redacted] President, Deacons of Defense and Justice, Bogalusa, reported [redacted] had 20 carbines, the situation appeared to be becoming more [redacted] tense in the Bogalusa area. He advised there might be trouble [redacted] in Bogalusa on the evening of May 13, 1966, as they expected [redacted] numerous white people to make it a point to be at the Acme Cafe and if Negroes attempted to enter, there could be trouble.

[redacted] is scheduled to have a meeting with [redacted] at 3:00 PM, May 13, 1966, to discuss the situation, and called [redacted] on the morning of May 13, 1966, and [redacted] sent the head of his Crime Laboratory to Bogalusa to check on the bullets fired into the Acme Cafe.

At 3:10 PM, Special Agent [redacted] 112th Intelligence Corps Group, New Orleans, Louisiana, was advised of the above.

At 3:20 PM, [redacted] Clerk-Stenographer, United States Secret Service, New Orleans, Louisiana, was advised of the above.

This confirms information furnished orally to Mr. James Turner of the Civil Rights Division on 5-15-66.

This document contains neither recommendations not conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FBI

Date: 5/14/66

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-6-33)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (173-201) (P)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION,
BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA
RM

ENCL

Enclosed herewith are eight (8) copies of a LHM reflecting the results of a conversation with [redacted] on 5/14/66. b7C

Copies of the enclosed LHM are being furnished to Secret Service and ICG, locally.

Agency G-2, ONI, OSI, CRD

Date Forw. MAY 20 1966 157-2466

How Forw. TT-5

By [illegible]

RACIAL UNIT
N.O.

NOT RECORDED
140 MAY 23 1966

ENCLOSURE

Wick

ENCLOSURE (RM)

3 MAY 19 1966

(3) - Bureau (Enc. 8)
2 - New Orleans
SMC/srl
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-80 BY [illegible] 157-2466

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
51 JUN 1 1966 Special Agent in Charge

SUBV RACIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
May 14, 1966

RACIAL SITUATION, BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA

On May 14, 1966, [redacted] Bogalusa, Louisiana, Chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, approached an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and, made certain derogatory remarks regarding the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice in connection with Civil Rights activities.

It was explained to [redacted] the FBI's jurisdiction in Civil Rights and related matters.

[redacted] then answered that he did not think that the Department of Justice was worth a "sh t". [redacted] stated that he did not want anything else to do with the FBI or the Department of Justice and that if either agency at any time wanted to talk to him, he would not do so unless they had a warrant for his arrest.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] then stated that in the event any more Negroes were "picked up" at the Acme Cafe in Bogalusa, "We will come to the Acme and tear that place up." [redacted] then walked away.

[redacted] remarks about the Acme Cafe were immediately furnished to [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-23-86 BY SP1 gsk/lp

ENCLOSURE

157-2466

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~~ENCLOSURE~~

(Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 5/25/66

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

CONFIDENTIAL

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, NEWARK (157-1922) (RUC)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)
(OO: NEW ORLEANS)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 SAL 11-7-
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2. 4. 2
DATE OF REVIEW _____

RE: Bureau airtel, 4/20/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM. Two copies of LHM enclosed for New Orleans, Philadelphia, and the Washington Field Office.

[redacted] is [redacted] (c)

b1
b7
b7

Other appropriate sources of the Newark Office were unable to furnish any information concerning the existence of a DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. (DDJ) Chapter in Paterson, New Jersey, or in any other part of New Jersey.

[redacted], mentioned in LHM, stated that he knew nothing of a proposed demonstration on June 1-2, 1966, at the White House, Washington, D.C., in opposition to the White House Conference on Civil Rights.

b7C
b7D

ENCLOSURE

3-Bureau (Enc.3)
2-New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc.2)
2-Philadelphia (157-1633) (Enc.2)
2-WFO (157-794) (Enc.2)
3-Newark
1-157-1935 [redacted]
1-157-1975 (CCBM)

RFH:lmd
(12)

REC 5 157-2466-136

b7C

EX-109 MAY 26 1966

Approved _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL INTERSEC

55 JUN 8 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

NK 157-1922

He said he knew of [redacted], whom he described as a "Pinko", but by reputation only. He denied having any knowledge of [redacted] or [redacted] He knows [redacted] and his group in the LABOR NEGRO VANGUARD CONFERENCE (LNVC). He said that [redacted] and the others in the LNVC are known in the Negro community as communists.

b1c

[redacted]

b1.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Newark, New Jersey
May 25, 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED (DDJ)
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] that he had (C) learned from a source he would not divulge that [redacted] Newark, New Jersey, is Chief of the "Deacons for Defense" in Newark, and meetings of this organization have been held in homes in Newark.

[redacted] that he believes (C) that [redacted] took the name of the "Deacons for Defense and Justice" for a group of individuals he is attempting to organize but that he has no connection with the DDJ of Louisiana. He stated that [redacted] wants publicity and notoriety for his group which he believes is small but which could get bigger if the desired publicity is forthcoming. He added that [redacted] is busy at this time [redacted] (C)

[redacted] advised on May 24, 1966, that he is [redacted] of a group of Negroes who call themselves "Deacons of Defense and Justice" as a result of their admiration for the real DDJ in Louisiana. He added that they have no connection either official or unofficial with the DDJ. He added that he estimated that about 70 persons had expressed an interest in his organization.

b1
b7

CLASS. & EXT. BY SPT/SR 117-23 50
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 D2
DATE OF REVIEW 5-25-66

157-2466-136

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

 CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] further advised that his organization is loosely organized and that they have held no meetings nor elected any officers. They have an implied agreement among themselves to protect each other in the event of an attack on any of them by the "Klan". In the event of a racial riot he said they would do what they could to stop it.

[redacted] described himself as a law-abiding, God-fearing individual. He said he is "not anti white" but he is "pro-Negro".

[redacted] described as follows:

Name:

Race:
Sex:
Birth data:

Height:
Weight:
Build:
Hair:
Eyes:
Complexion:
Marital status:
Employment:

[redacted]

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

FBI

Date: 6-8-66

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)(157-840)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RM (ORGANIZATION)

OO: NEW ORLEANS

[redacted] b7C
RM

OO: NEW ORLEANS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-23-82 BY SP1 [illegible]

Enclosed for the Bureau are 9 copies of a LHM containing a transcript of an interview of ERNEST THOMAS on "Hot Line", WVON radio, Chicago, Illinois, on May 23, 1966, by WESLEY SOUTH, Moderator.

"Hot Line" was taped on May 23, 1966 by IC [redacted]. b7C

5 - Bureau (157-2466)(Enc 9)
(1 - 157-[redacted]) b7C
4 - WFO (157-794)(Enc 2)
(2 - 157-801 [redacted]) 1ST-116
4 - New Orleans (157-3290)(Enc 2)
(2 - 157-[redacted])
4 - Chicago
(1 - 157-350 POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)
(1 - 157-413 RM)

REC 33 157-2466-132

17 JUN 9 1966

WMP:csk
(17)

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI; SEC. SER.: [illegible]
DEPT: ISD, CRD, [illegible], Com Rel. Service
DATE FORW: 6/13/66
HOW FORW: [illegible]
BY: [illegible]

ENCLOSURE

ICC AT+LHM 902 940

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

69 JUN 17 1966

Two copies of the LHM are enclosed to WFO and two copies to New Orleans.

In addition, one copy each of the LHM has been disseminated locally at Chicago to the USA, Secret Service, and Region I, 113th INTC Group.

LEADS

NEW ORLEANS

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 1. Will contact informants and sources to substantiate or disprove statements of THOMAS that about 2,000 Deacons (evidently nationwide) were to picket the President's conference on civil rights on June 1 - 2, 1966 at Washington, D.C.

2. Will also attempt to substantiate or disprove THOMAS's numerical figure of an "expected" influx of 10,000 to 15,000 Deacons into Chicago, where they will live in the city, within the next three months.

3. Will develop and furnish any information regarding opening and operation of Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) office in Chicago and the identity of persons involved.

THOMAS indicated that a DDJ office has been opened at 1230 South Pulaski, Chicago, and that somewhere around 455 persons have been recruited. New Orleans will attempt to verify or disprove this figure through informants and sources.

WFO

AT WASHINGTON, D. C. Will contact informants and sources to substantiate or disprove statements of THOMAS that about 2,000 Deacons were to picket the President's conference on civil rights on June 1-2, 1966 at Washington, D.C.

CG 157-572
157-840

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 1. Will continue investigation into the alleged organization and activities of a branch of the DDJ at Chicago.

2. Will contact confidential informants and sources and maintain contact with them to substantiate or disprove THOMAS's claim that 455 persons have been recruited into the DDJ at Chicago.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Chicago, Illinois
JUNE 8, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTER (ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] b7C
RACIAL MATTER

Ernest Thomas, characterized as the local organizer for the Deacons For Defense and Justice (DDJ) and as Regional Vice-President and Northern Director for the DDJ, appeared on the program "Hot Line" on WVON radio, Chicago, Illinois on May 23, 1966. "Hot Line" is a radio program on which a controversial figure is usually interviewed. Telephone questions are solicited from listeners which are answered by the interviewee. A transcript of the program pertaining to THOMAS is as follows:

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-8 BY SP1 [illegible]

ENCLOSURE 157-2466-137

ERNEST THOMAS, local organizer for the Deacons for Defense and Justice, appeared on "Hot Line," May 23, 1966, 11:00 to 12:00 Midnight, on WVON Radio. WESLEY SOUTH was the Moderator.

THOMAS — Well, I've been in and out of Chicago for the last seven months. Presently it's around 455 actual members of it now. But the number is going to grow quite large. Actually, we got to open an office on the north and south side now because we have such a great number that is coming in we won't be able with the space that is ...

Moderator — Listen, I want to ask you. I noticed you opened on the west side first. Why did you open over there and not on the south?

THOMAS — Well, you take the west siders for instance. I think it is more or less of a place where something is really about to explode. It is just like being in with a load of dynamite with the fuse lit, and we felt if we could come into the west side and begin to relate to the man

the problems there and if he really wants to solve them he could go about doing it. Hopefully that he will try to do something about the problem on the west side. Because, see, as long as you let the problem exist we can keep hollering about crime rates and all of this but if we really want to stop crime rates then we get some jobs for people because ain't nobody in the world. I wouldn't even recommend that a man stand out in front of the A&P or the Acme (phonetic) markets and look at a ham and starve to death there. So the best thing for him to do would be to break the glass to get him some ham. Now so the structure wants to deal with this then they have to begin to give some jobs, make some jobs.

Moderator — Will you also be a job seeking agency?

THOMAS — Certainly. We will be trying to seek out employment for, as the structure say, qualified personnel. We will be trying to find them some qualified personnel.

Moderator — What are the requirements to belong to the Deacons for Defense and Justice?

THOMAS — Well, first thing you must be a Negro, you must be 21 years of age, as the board say you must have the character of becoming a Deacon.

Moderator — Now that is the crucial question.

THOMAS — Well, the board figure that you must feel as though you have to make a decision whether you stand for freedom or you are out here just saying you represent freedom or you are fighting for freedom. And this means whatever necessary to gain freedom, this is what you are willing to do.

Moderator — In other words, if a person who say he is for freedom and is fighting for freedom unless he, well, joins your group then you don't believe that he really wants it. Where you would go all the way possibly in order to get the freedom that another person would take to the courts.

THOMAS — Well, what I mean. I hope it don't be misleading. We're glad to see the other groups here.

Moderator — Well, I mean if they don't join you they are not, from what you just said a moment ago, if I am interpreting you correctly, then they are just

out here talking and they really don't mean what they say.

THOMAS Well, that's true. You see, because how can you tell a man that you are going to be out here after this freedom and are going to let him your head and when he whip your head you are coming back tomorrow and let him whip your head. To us this does not seem like being a man. Now we are after what is rightfully ours and upon action for what is rightfully ours then I expect to get it and we don't expect you to use brute force against us to deny us this.

Moderator Ladies and gentlemen. I just got a note from the control room that we had a little difficulty before we went on the air and probably you didn't hear who our guest is tonight. He is Mr. ERNEST THOMAS, who is the Regional President and Northern Director of the Deacons for Defense and Justice. They opened an office on the west side three weeks ago. As I said, I want to welcome him back. You know he was our guest, I think it was back in October, wasn't it?

THOMAS Yes, it was.

Moderator — So in case you were listening and wondering who that was on the "Hot Line" his name is ERNEST THOMAS and he's the top Deacon here. Is that right?

THOMAS — That's true.

Moderator — Why do you say Deacon? Why not pastor?

THOMAS — It was a name that was kicked around and it was beginning to look... All this was church orientated and so the Deacons more or less taking care of the business of the church and so we said this is a good name because we're out here protecting the civil rights workers so that is the name we settled on, Deacons for Defense and Justice.

Moderator — Is there any way of just recognizing a Deacon on the street?

THOMAS — No, there is really no way because as you know Deacons are black so, you see a lot of black people.

Moderator — You want to see a million Deacons. What about women? Can they join?

THOMAS — Yes, women can join too. We have a Deaconess started. This is only in the Northern chapters, though, that we have Deaconess.

Moderator — Will they be in the gun clubs too, rifle clubs?

THOMAS — Well, certainly.

Moderator — Talking about the requirements in order to be a member of Deacons, and that's when I was handed this note, and you were telling us the different requirements. Did you finish? I cut you off there.

THOMAS — Well, I pretty well covered it.

Moderator — What about a fellow who has been in prison?

THOMAS — Well, a man being in prison doesn't...

Moderator — He can still be a Deacon.

THOMAS — He still can be a Deacon because man you have to face this fact, and this is one thing I blame society for. If a man has a criminal record and if we're trying to reform the man certainly he needs employment. And we find as a whole your criminals are mostly unemployed and with no hopes of getting a job because as soon as a man looks at his record then he refuse him so therefore you are telling him go back out and stick somebody up or go back out and do the same crime over again and let the state take care of you. This is bad.

Moderator — Do the Deacons intend to protect civil rights workers here?

THOMAS — Well, we intend to protect civil rights workers to a point in the city of Chicago. If we're called upon to help out then we will do this.

Moderator — Now what do you mean by that. That's rather ambiguous. If we're called - say that they are marching as they did down near Mayor DALEY's home as they did last summer and they ask you for protection. Now maybe, oh maybe 200 or 300 policemen there. Would they feel they needed some protection from you? I mean just say that someone said well here's a good chance for us to have a confrontation. Let's call the Deacons. What would you do in a case like this?

THOMAS — Well, we would come in more or less as witnesses to the fact. We wouldn't participate openly in the march but we would be there as spectators and we would be looking out for police brutality and John Bigot coming around and agitating them whereas they have committed them to non-violence. So that if the police would not handle John Bigot we would take care of John Bigot for them.

Moderator — In other words, you put John Bigot in his place.

THOMAS — That's right.

Moderator — Would you be armed?

THOMAS — Well, I wouldn't feel that we would need to be.

Moderator — You wouldn't feel a need to be but would you [illegible]

THOMAS — Well, no. If we didn't feel that we need to be armed...

Moderator — If you felt that you need to be you would be armed.

THOMAS — Oh, certainly.

Moderator — Even though the police are there.

THOMAS — Certainly. Because, you know, like one has to protect himself and if you lack the confidence in the police to protect you then you have to protect yourself.

Moderator — And then what about if the Governor would send in the National Guard and they declare martial law?

THOMAS — Well, if they declared martial law then like I say we would kind of go along with it like to a point as long as the police is capable of carrying out equal justice.

Moderator Now you say to a point. You indicate that there might be a point that you would not go.

THOMAS As I plainly stated we are fighting for our freedom and this means at all cost. Now if the man don't want to give any ground then that is what it is. It's a fight. But I am hoping and I think that somewhere along the line that the man will give some ground. But we intend to have our freedom one way or the other. It's no if/and about that.

Moderator Now what do the Deacons, what do you think about the Chicago Police Department?

THOMAS Well, here on the off and on periods that I have been in the city here could stand a lot, could be changed in Chicago here with the police department to make it function a little better. For an instance, on the west side here you see sometimes two white police. Well, a lot of times you see two white policemen in the car together, two blacks together, then you see, at night I see detectives riding four whites in the car. When you see things like this you know

that some black person is going to get abused because when they riding like that that is what they're out there big. Ninety per cent of the time. And this is bad. And if the man really wanted to make a change in Chicago then there should be integration here. Black and white police together. And this way the black one couldn't abuse the white one and the white one couldn't abuse the black one because after all he belongs to the black race and he belongs to the white race. This would seem to be a way of balancing it out. But I've been told they have done it last year, you know, during the riots for a while but then they put them back together. So I don't know what the situation is going to be here. That would be one of my suggestions to, as a matter of fact I have a meeting with Superintendent WILSON on Thursday evening. I am going to strongly suggest this would be one of the best things really if they intended to try to keep it coolsome, is to put a little integration in the Chicago Police Department.

Moderator — Did you say you will be meeting with Superintendent WILSON? When?

THOMAS — Thursday evening.

Moderator — Thursday evening. Now you were talking about riots. Do the Deacons believe there is a possibility of a riot in Chicago this summer?

THOMAS — Yes. We are hoping strongly it doesn't be a riot in the city of Chicago and if we can get the cooperation from the people in the city of Chicago we might be able to stop a riot.

Moderator — What do you call cooperation?

THOMAS — Well, from the various groups and from the various agencies, from the police department, from the city officials, you know. We have gotten a pretty cold shoulder since we've been in town from the power structure, and this in itself says that it's something that is wrong somewhere.

Moderator — Would you expect them to give you a welcoming in open arms?

THOMAS — No, I am not looking for any welcome in open arms but just a lot of things that have happened

since I've been in the city in and out here they have indicated that at this particular point they were more or less ignoring us and wondering what's going on.

Moderator — Just ignoring you. How did you happen to get an interview or conference with Superintendent WILSON? Did you request it?

THOMAS — The only thing I know that his secretary called my secretary and...

Moderator — You had put in a request for it.

THOMAS — No.

Moderator — He is requesting you to come to see him.

THOMAS — Right. It's some more groups that's going to be there - supposed to be. So, I'll find out really. Well, I said what's going to be the topic and she said she didn't know, so I'll find out when I get there.

Moderator — Now, getting back to this riot. This is a very sensitive issue here. What do you think will be the major cause of a riot, if there is one?

THOMAS — Well, that would go into quite a few parts. The frustration that the black people live in the ghetto from day to day creates a certain

threat of a riot. Then with unemployment, with not being able to be a man of his house or head of the household and then on top of all of that police brutality. I think if a riot occurred it will occur from police brutality.

Moderator: You think that will be the incident that will trigger it off, as it did in Watts?

THOMAS: That is true.

Moderator: Do you think the same disastrous results would...

THOMAS: Well, I think if a full scale riot would get rolling in the city of Chicago it would be much more difficult than the one in Watts. I would say it would be three times as worse as the LA riot for the location of the city, the way Chicago is located. You have blacks on the north side and the west side and the south side. Now this would create, I think, a more worser riot than the LA riot.

Moderator: Now there was a cross burning here over the weekend out in, oh I think it was, Kenilworth. Did the Deacons have any idea of that? (Inaudible)

THOMAS Yes, well, we haven't been out there yet but we have contacted some people that live out there and we have been gathering some information. Of course, it never fooled us for any minute that Chicago was any different from Mississippi because you have more bigots in Chicago than they have in Mississippi and Louisiana put together. So this is a known fact so we're not assuming that these are all the good guys but we are not assuming that all of them are bad guys either, but we know that there are more Birchites and Klansmen, Minutemen in the city of Chicago than they could muster in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana put together.

Moderator What do you think of the white teenagers who attacked at a Negro last night? If you remember this was in the news today.

THOMAS Yes, I did. Well, you take a situation like this. You know these things like this is good to really point out to the people here in the city that although they live as though they are in the North and they expect to live in the different

surroundings they don't feel that they are going to get attacked on the streets and some of them are just misled, and this shows you that whether you are involved in anything as long as you are black you are in it. And he could have been the mayor or the judge or the prosecutor of Chicago, if he'd have been black and he'd have been there at that particular time he would have got his head whipped. And this is the whole thing. You are black and whether you are a bad black guy or a good black guy, if you are at the wrong place at the wrong time you get messed around.

Moderator Do you think that slum conditions are as bad in Chicago as the, well, Southern Christian Leadership Conference has said? You know Dr. KING has come up here as you have and established a headquarters on the west side also.

THOMAS Yes, well, after looking over the community I would say that it is worse than what SCLC says that it is because in some way or another I think it's time to let the man know the real, the facts, and not sugar coating the words and

not telling him things are so good in the ghetto and stuff like this because things are important words. You ride down through some of those streets there and see the rats how large they are and you look at this and you say now here is a city of this size, not a poor city and I'm quite sure they could get rid of the rats.

Moderator — I'd like to ask, when did you see your last rat?

THOMAS — Today.

Moderator — You saw a rat today?

THOMAS — Today.

Moderator — Was he a live rat?

THOMAS — A live rat. And as big as the squirrels we kill down South.

Moderator — Four legged one.

THOMAS — That's right.

Moderator — Do you think that the Chicago Welfare Agency is doing a good job?

THOMAS — Well, that would have to be determined, you would have to determine that whether they are doing a good job, that would be a pretty difficult question. Now I think the welfare is doing the job that the men, the structure, want them to do.

But it is not doing the job that needs to be done to help the people, you see. There's a difference. A lot of people get confused even with the poverty program. It's serving the purpose that the man wants it to serve but it is not serving the purpose that we want it to serve and that is to help black people.

Moderator — Getting back to a question just a previous one, you were talking about the slums and you were saying that it is not as good as people see it. Who is saying it is good? Everybody I've heard here in Chicago in the last few years I think everybody is saying it's bad.

THOMAS — Everyone's saying it is bad but yet we don't see any changes.

Moderator — But then nobody is saying it, then you will retract that saying that we are saying it is good living in the slums.

THOMAS — Why, sure. If I made that mistake I certainly retract that.

Moderator — What do you think about the unemployment situation here? What are you going to do about that?

THOMAS

Well, it is pretty bad and somehow or another we're going to have to meet, I am quite sure, with the city officials here and the state employment agency and the poverty program people and see about getting some of these people some jobs.

Moderator

How are you going to be able to help get jobs and help people in their housing problems and this very intricate education problem?

THOMAS

It's going to be quite a problem. That is why I say we are going to need some help from various groups to help put this together, put a program together to where it will be effective, and unless we get some help like I say it's going to be very difficult to help people.

Now when we are not able to help people then we are not going to have any further say if the man don't listen to our plea and when we relate to the ghetto to him what the ghetto is saying and he don't act, then if something erupt then don't come to us, because we are not going out there to try to stop them people from throwing no bricks.

Moderator Do you think they would come to you in the first place?

THOMAS Well, I think they would try to come to anybody that perhaps could have a little influence on the ghetto.

Moderator From indications they might think that you are trying to start it.

THOMAS No. They may do that but that is up to their own opinion, but we are not out to riot or create a riot but we're here to let him know that the situation exists and if he don't do something about it then it is going to be a riot. It's if/and about that and they don't need to tell the man there ain't going to be no riot it's going to be a cool summer because then you get a lot of innocent people hurt when you tell them that things are pretty good, we'll make it over this summer without any incident. And you have 50 or 20 white people coming through the ghetto and getting trapped in something like that and they might be some pretty decent white people and they get messed around. And the same

thing if some blacks coming through that don't even know anything they could get messed around. So these are things I look at as the innocent person. Now if he was John Bigot coming into the community abusing someone in the community, I wouldn't have any sympathy for him. You know what I mean. But you have to have sympathy for people.

Moderator — Listen, you know you were talking about what you intend to do and I understand you are in charge of all the branches that you will be setting up in the North.

THOMAS — That is true.

Moderator — What do you think of the civil rights conference which is to be held in Washington next week on June first and second which hopes to alleviate many of the problems of both North and South.

THOMAS — Well, I find it pretty hard to believe. I went to one of the pre-conferences in Philadelphia and after listening at the discussion there and participating in the discussion I could see plainly that you could have 10 civil rights

conferences a year and you are not going to accomplish too much. Now, the Federal Government knows the problem. You got FBI Agents and all other kind of agents and then the city police have intelligence agents and the man really ought to know the problem better than I do. But now the point is does he intend to do something about it. Now, I don't need to sit around and talk to him 40 or 45 minutes, two hours, three hours and get up and leave and nothing is done. That's just a waste of my time and a waste of his time and I think it's very bad. I don't think too much is going to come out of it. As a matter of fact I am supposed to go to Washington on the first and second and picket it. We are supposed to bring up about 2,000 Deacons.

Moderator — In other words, you don't think too much about the conference.

THOMAS — No. I don't think too much good for the black people will come out of the conference.

Moderator Listen. I've been listening to you now for 29 minutes and I want to ask you one question. Do the Deacons intend to demonstrate in Mississippi this summer?

THOMAS Well, we really don't intend to demonstrate. I think demonstrations are played out just about and I think this is one approach we have used to the fullest. I find when you go out in the street demonstrating the man says he has a Constitutional right to picket, you have a lawful right to demonstrate and then he comes around and locks you up, and you pay thousands of dollars in court fees and then after paying all that you cut it loose, you know. We don't have any intention of spending so great fortune on no demonstration, the man arrests you and all that, so I don't see that we would be in the streets too much demonstrating because this does not get us too far. We get the short end of the stick every time.

Moderator If you should have any trouble next summer or while you are here will the Deacons ask for help from other chapters across the United States, if you need it here?

THOMAS — Yes, well we feel as though we need a little help in the city of Chicago now and we have called in and in the next two months, [illegible] to three months, there will be approximately ten to fifteen thousand outside Deacons coming in to the city of Chicago to try and help.

Moderator — How many?

THOMAS — Ten to fifteen thousand.

Moderator — Ten to fifteen thousand Deacons. They going to live here?

THOMAS — They'll live in the city.

Moderator — They will live in the city.

THOMAS — That's right.

Moderator — So we can expect an influx of ten to fifteen thousand Deacons.

THOMAS — Over the next three months.

Moderator — Over the next three months.

Ladies and gentlemen, our guest tonight is ERNEST THOMAS, Regional Vice-President and Northern Director of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, which opened an office on the west side here three weeks ago. If you have a

question or comment we invite you to give us a call here on the Hot Line. Our telephone number is 847-2602.

(Commercial)

Well, we are back with you ladies and gentlemen. Our guest tonight ERNEST THOMAS, Regional Vice President and Northern Director of the Deacons for Defense and Justice. Our telephone number 847-2602, and from all indications a lot of people are going to have something they want to talk with you, Mr. THOMAS. I'd like to ask you two or three other questions before we go to the telephone and that is - you know that we have a lot of young people here in Chicago. They have associated themselves in what we call gangs, west side gangs, east side, south side, north side. You name it and they've got gangs. Will there be a youth program with the Deacons?

THOMAS — Yes, we are hoping strongly that we can get a pretty decent youth program.

Moderator — You going to draw them from this group here?

THOMAS — Pardon?

Moderator — Do you intend to draw the youth from the gangs?

THOMAS — Any, whether he is a gang youth or a youth we want to try to work with them some type of way to keep them primarily in something, in an active way, and we hope to try and form softball leagues all over the city and maybe a little participation in that baseball league and what happens, you know.

Moderator — Well, one other question. What do you think about the peace demonstrations? We've been having some peace demonstrations against our involvement in Viet Nam for a few months now.

THOMAS — Well, I've been more or less pushed into several of them. I didn't understand them until I was in them. I ended up the police told go this way, go this way and I ended up there. But what's puzzling me it is so many whites out there talking about end the war in Viet Nam and they are the ones that mostly prospers from whatever the U.S....

Moderator — But you didn't say these individual whites who are asking; I am thinking about the young man who is

going to be on my show tomorrow night, EARL SILBAR. Now he is very much against the profit that's in the...

THOMAS — Well, that's true. But what I am say is I don't see Negroes on a mass scale out there talking about the war in Viet Nam. I think this is really what need to be that blacks say well why should I go to Viet Nam.

Moderator — Oh, you think they should be out on the peace move, or are you?

THOMAS — I'm saying that Afro-Americans should be out there. I'm not so much concerned with whether they are integrated out there but I'm saying that because there is a different cut of the pie when although some the ones that are protesting now the war in Viet Nam whites may eventually end up working on the space ship that goes to the moon or somewhere. But, I'm speaking of black people that are dying and that have died in every war in this country and now when we come back home we cannot get our rightful slice of the pie. And every group,

every other minority group has gotten a slice of the pie. This is why I am saying black people are going to have to say well why don't you go fight your battle until you give me my rightful share of the pie. See, because I believe in this law in the sea. You know, the ship is sunken and damaged and you tow it in you get so much of the cargo. So I think if we help you exploit the people then we should have a rightful cut of the pie.

Moderator — One other question. What do you think of the political structure here in Chicago?

THOMAS — Well, from all indications it is a pretty bad thing.

Moderator — In what respect?

THOMAS — Well, in all respects.

Moderator — Such as.

THOMAS — Well, all these problems exist, unemployment; like I say the fuse is lit to blow up all this is because X number of things. Welfare is not giving the welfare recipient enough money, they are taking the man and tearing him away from his

family and support his wife and kids and run him out of the house so it is just a whole lot of things that cause this and I think the political structure mostly everything in the city of Chicago is political tied anyway.

Moderator: Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, our guest ERNEST THOMAS, our telephone number 847-2602. We're going to stop here for a short message.

(Commercial)

Moderator — Well, we are back with you ladies and gentlemen. WESLEY SOUTH is your host. Our guest ERNEST THOMAS and our telephone number 847-2602. Let's go and see what some of our listeners have to ask you. This is the Hot Line.

First Speaker — Hello Mr. SOUTH.

Moderator — Yes.

First Speaker — This is EARL YOUNG. I haven't caught all of your program but I did catch a portion of it for your interview with the Deacons and I would like to say with all due respect to the Deacons and any constructive approach they may have to solving the situations and many problems that we are having in Chicago I do hope that if they have the chance to meet with city officials that they will make it clear that they do not represent the Negro population as a whole because judging from the appearance that they seem to be giving on the program I for one would not want to be represented by them. Thank you.

Moderator	Thank you for your call.
THOMAS	Thank you sir.
Moderator	This is the Hot Line.
Second Speaker	Hello.
Moderator	Yes, may we have your question.
Second Speaker	Mr. THOMAS, did I hear you say that you are expecting from ten to fifteen thousand Deacons in the city of Chicago very shortly.
THOMAS	Yes, in the next three months.
Second Speaker	How are they going to live? Will they be working on jobs or will they bring money enough to support themselves?
THOMAS	Well, the organization will worry about that.
Second Speaker	You say that you are not going to participate in demonstrations and you are not going to offer any...
THOMAS	Now I said. Wait a minute. I think you misinterpreted me. I said we as an organization was not too concerned about demonstrating in the streets.
Second Speaker	Yes, and I inferred from your conversation that you are not going to offer any armed

resistance to the police, so I would like to know what you would describe as the exact function of the Deacons in Chicago.

THOMAS — Well, we would probably be pretty busy telling a man the problems, and I think by telling him the problem and pointing to the problem and the street groups can more or less demonstrate around them if they like.

Second Speaker — I would like to ask you one more question. Will the Deacons participate in any political campaigns while they are here?

THOMAS — Sure we will participate in political campaigns while we are here.

Second Speaker — Here is one more thing. This is the last question. What sort of success have you had in recruiting people from the city of Chicago?

THOMAS — Well, as I say we have [illegible] around 455 now and I consider that [illegible] time we have had to work with them I [illegible] it's very successful.

Second Speaker — That is since you had your office open for three weeks.

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THOMAS — No. We have been in the city of Chicago for the last seven months but I've been off and on in the city.

Second Speaker — Okay, well, thank you very much.

Moderator — Thanks for calling.

Where is your office located?

THOMAS — 1230 South Pulaski.

Moderator — Let's get back to the telephone.

This is the Hot Line.

Third Speaker — Hello. Mr. THOMAS please.

Moderator — Go right ahead.

Third Speaker — Mr. THOMAS, I understand you to say that you are going to point up the problems to the man. Aren't the problems already pointed up? I mean, aren't they aware of the problems now?

THOMAS — I think I made that statement that the man knows more about the problem than I and you put together.

Third Speaker — Why do you need fifteen thousand other people in here to crowd the situation that we now have to point up a problem that is already self-evident?

THOMAS — Because I'll tell you why. Because as I say we're not one of the nonviolent groups and we don't think that we are not in the city to get hurt or beat.

Third Speaker — To incite a riot?

THOMAS — Pardon?

Third Speaker — You here to incite a riot?

THOMAS — If a riot occurs it will occur on its own. We are not here to incite a riot but then also we are not intending to be intimidated and beat by anyone and if you know the gentleman that's running out on the south side that HERBERT (phonetic), the man that came in his office and shot him up. Now we don't intend to have that either.

Third Speaker — But that was not the man. That was the colored man.

THOMAS — The colored man.

Third Speaker — Yes, he was shot by a Negro.

THOMAS — Well, you know you white people can put Negroes up to do things too. We have some black people with black skin that's white, you know. And when I see that happen that's a weak-minded black man.

Third Speaker — Yes, well another thing you spoke of the slums and the rats. Who creates the slums?

THOMAS — Who creates the slums?

Third Speaker — Yes.

THOMAS — The people.

Third Speaker — The people, right. So if the Negroes create their own slums...

THOMAS — No. When they move into an area that's 35 to 40 years old, they never moved into a ghetto or a large community of 40 or 50 blocks of new housing like white developments goes up.

Moderator — You don't mean that to be true in Chicago. You're talking about in some areas.

THOMAS — In some areas of Chicago, that is right. In the ghettos is what I'm speaking of.

Third Speaker — Negroes have moved in Chicago into brand new houses and have created slums right in their present house. They move into old housing that has been kept clean in spite of the age and dirty it. They steal light bulbs out of their own community, they write on the walls. Do we blame the white man for this?

THOMAS — Well, you see where the responsibility comes is if the man don't make enough money...

Third Speaker — Shouldn't this be taken up with the Negro?

THOMAS — Pardon?

Third Speaker — If they are creating their own problems.

THOMAS — Well, do you want me to answer it or I'll listen to you?

Third Speaker — I want you to answer it.

THOMAS — Well, now you see when a man do not have a decent job, because the only reason he won't have a decent job is that he is black. And all of this perpetuate the whole situation to make it be like it is. Here a man. He is worried how he is going to make another buck and you worried about whether you going to paint your house this week or next week or what color you going to change it. And he never even see where he can get any point, you see. And these are the problems that exist to create a slum. Then you bring in all the slum buildings that are supposed to really be torn down and the city inspectors come by and they

check the building and they slip him a buck and they go head on. The building go on and the next minute it is a fire trap and it kills fifteen or twenty kids in the buildings.

Third Speaker Well, what about the housing that the Negroes buy and they in turn rent to the Negroes and the Negroes go about destroying the properties that they are renting from Negroes. Do they blame the white man for that?

THOMAS Well, I observe by what you are saying I'm quite sure you are caucasian.

Third Speaker Oh, I'm quite black.

THOMAS Well, you are caucasian minded, so when I say that I don't mean the pigments of your skin. We have a lot of black people that more or less white/black and they don't understand the problems of their own race. And I am quite sure you fall into this category that you don't understand your own fellow (inaudible).

Third Speaker I think we're using black as an excuse.

THOMAS Well, if you show me any black man in America or black woman in America that is free then I'll give up.

Third Speaker — Well, being free has nothing to do with being clean.

THOMAS — Whether you got two million dollars or two hundred million dollars. A black man with two hundred million dollars is not free. Pardon?

Third Speaker — Being free has nothing to do with being clean.

THOMAS — Sure it does. You think the troops in Viet Nam is clean?

Third Speaker — Well, we're not speaking of Viet Nam.

THOMAS — No, but I'm saying do you think they're clean. (inaudible).

Third Speaker — We're not speaking of Viet Nam because the Deacons did not go to Viet Nam they came to Chicago.

THOMAS — We have some in Viet Nam too. For your information.

Third Speaker — Well, yes, I heard that about Viet Nam. But what I'm saying the problem here is Chicago and what we want to do is make the living conditions in Chicago...

THOMAS — Well, we are striving for the conditions of the whole U.S. We are not just concerned just with Chicago. I want to be able to go to New York, anywhere else. We are not just concerned with just Chicago because I have some sixty seventy chapters and I am concerned about what is going on in all these seventy different places. And this is my concern. Now your concern might be just right here in Chicago, but mine's not.

Third Speaker — Well, since you are here in Chicago don't you think part of the program could be geared towards helping the black man help himself?

THOMAS — That's true.

Third Speaker — I mean like not only fighting for your rights...

THOMAS — And one of those ways is to help himself and to be a man. And we cannot help ourselves and be a man by letting you whip us side the head.

Third Speaker — Now everybody isn't whipped side the head.

THOMAS — Well, you whip one way or the other or you whip side the head or you whip mentally. Either way you whipped.

Third Speaker — So what do we do? Do we go through physical violence or do we try to alleviate the problems that create the situation?

THOMAS — Well, when you go to try to deal with the problem that creates the situation then that brings on violence because the man never wants go give any ground. You understand? Why, you think you never seen the civil rights people get their heads whipped down South?

Third Speaker — Oh, yes...

THOMAS — You never seen them get arrested in Chicago? Pardon?

Third Speaker — I've never been in the South but they have had heads whipped in other areas other than the South.

THOMAS — Right. Have you heard of police brutality in Chicago?

Third Speaker — Yes, there's police brutality in Chicago but what I'm speaking of is the fact that there are more areas to work than just the violence.

Moderator — So you would bypass the court and we'll take care of this, is this what the Deacons are saying?

THOMAS — No. We are not saying that, but I think the lady got mixed up for when we as an organization was not intending to spend a fortune going through the courts when the one Federal law says you have the right to picket to lawful assembly and all this and then the city official comes in and arrests you and you go through courts, city courts...

Moderator — You say you are not going to demonstrate.

THOMAS — No, we are not going to get out there and do that.

Moderator — We have to cut you off here mam. We have a couple commercials coming up. Thank you for calling. Good night.

Our telephone number 847-2302.

(Commercial)

Moderator — This is the Hot Line.

Fourth Speaker — Yes, Mr. SOUTH. What is your guest, Mr. THOMAS?

Moderator — Yes, ERNEST THOMAS.

Fourth Speaker — Is he on? Well, Mr. THOMAS.

THOMAS — Yes sir.

Fourth Speaker — You said that you were asked to come here. Would you mind explaining who asked you to come here?

THOMAS — No, I don't think it is necessary to answer you.

Fourth Speaker — It is none of my business.

THOMAS — Pardon?

Fourth Speaker — You say you don't think it is none of my business?

THOMAS — I say I don't think it is necessary for me to answer that.

Fourth Speaker — I don't see why.

Moderator — This man lives here. He is a Negro you come here to help him.

Fourth Speaker — Come here to help you do what.

Moderator — Sir, he has come here to help you. I would say too I would say it's your business to know.

Fourth Speaker — I am a Negro.

Moderator — That's what I say.

Fourth Speaker — Yes, and that's why I ask you.

Moderator — I know the NAACP say they didn't ask you. The Urban League say they didn't ask you.

THOMAS — I don't mean established groups such like that. These are various people and from small groups.

Moderator	I know churches have said they didn't ask you to come in.
THOMAS	Yes, like I say we are not going to disclose who invited us in.
Moderator	Is there any reason? I mean is this a secret organization?
THOMAS	Not an organization. We got our signs up. We're here. But I'm speaking of who invited us. And this have a tendency to get the people that invited us into a bind because they do work for the power structure.
Moderator	You would say that someone invited you in.
THOMAS	A lot of people, yes.
Fourth Speaker	Would you explain who the lot of people are. Can't you give me some...
THOMAS	I thought I explained this to you. Say if you worked for the mayor and your name was on there would you want me to give that name out.
Fourth Speaker	Listen, we have a lot of groups here. In other words we have got too many groups here.
THOMAS	No, we never have too many because we haven't solved the problem. Meantime whether we've got too many...

Fourth Speaker — Will you listen to me. You know you say it again that you was going to bring in about fifteen thousand Deacons. Now you know you ain't got no fifteen thousand Deacons. There ain't an organization among the Negroes today got fifteen thousand Negroes in it.

THOMAS — Wait three months and call me back and say that.

Fourth Speaker — Wait three months. Look. I've been here in Chicago long before you were born.

THOMAS — Well, we're not arguing that point.

Fourth Speakerq. — And you say you've been here six months.

THOMAS — Yes, six to seven months off and on.

Fourth Speaker — Now you don't know what's going on in Chicago no more than what somebody tell you.

THOMAS. — Well, I don't see... In other words you saying I can't see the problem.

Fourth Speaker — Wait a minute. You going to hear me now. We do not want no pistol packing Deacons here because we get along without a riot and you know you can't accomplish nothing in no boisterous way and I don't like your attitude. You spoke about the man looking in the store at the man. Don't you know that's a match for a riot? Don't you know that?

THOMAS — Pardon?

Fourth Speaker — Huh?

Moderator — He said don't you know that your statement of the hungry man looking at a ham in the store is a match for a riot.

THOMAS — Well then I can't help that.

Fourth Speaker — Yes you can help that by not speaking and things. And here's another thing I want to tell you. Any time the groups get together like that you've been...you see we are American citizens.

THOMAS — That's right.

Fourth Speaker — Don't deal just on black, black and white, black and white. Don't you know what you're doing? You just building up more hatred between the two races.

THOMAS — I'm not striving for love. We're striving for respect for one another.

Fourth Speaker — We don't want no pistol packing Deacons here.

THOMAS — Well, we didn't say we was pistol packing.

Fourth Speaker — I'm a Negro myself, and I'm going to tell you so far as I'm concerned you should never have come here.

THOMAS	Well, you are entitled to your opinion.
Fourth Speaker	Then you was talking about the police department and all such as that. We don't need you to come here. You don't know nothing about no ghettos or no slums or nothing like that. You ain't been here long enough to know.
THOMAS	Oh, that's no difference.
Fourth Speaker	I've been here forty some odd years and don't know all about it.
THOMAS	It's no different here than New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, no where.
Fourth Speaker	Speak a little louder please.
Moderator	He said no difference here than New York or Chicago. At New York, Philadelphia, other places.
THOMAS	That's right. It's no different.
Moderator	Okay. Thank you for calling in.
Fourth Speaker	Okay.
Moderator	Good night.
	This is the Hot Line.
Fifth Speaker	Yes. WESLEY SOUTH told me to call.
Moderator	Speaking.
Fifth Speaker	I would like to talk with a Mr. THOMAS.

Moderator Who is this - did you say I told you to call? Go right ahead.

Fifth Speaker Yes, my name is Mr. CYRTON.

Moderator Well, he said I told him to call; go right ahead.

Fifth Speaker Yes, am I talking with Mr. THOMAS?

THOMAS Yes you are.

Fifth Speaker Well, here's what I would like to bring out. I've been listening to your program very long here and I want to... You know, I'm not condemning you for being here and I'm not condoning you, but I want to say some of the things that's going on that you're speaking of really, actually happening here. I am living in a slum which you call-d and I see a lot of things and one way or the other - it looks like its something going to be happening that's going to be right.

THOMAS That's true.

Fifth Speaker Far as the explosion. [illegible] I'll tell you what goes on here, see. A lot of times these guys from suburbs and what have you they come around. They'll be looking for prostitutes and [illegible]

thing and another. And it has been called to the police department's attention and everything, and nothing's really been done about it. And so what else can you do about it? I would really like for some of the listeners to give their opinion.

Moderator — Would you and I know each other, sir? I'm trying to rack my brain for someone by the name of OVERTON.

Fifth Speaker — Yes, you do.

Moderator — Okay. Thanks for calling.

Our telephone number 847-2602.

(Commercial)

This is the Hot Line.

Sixth Speaker — I would like to address a remark or two to Mr. THOMAS. Mr. THOMAS, I'm white and I've been struggling for integration and against segregation and for civil rights for probably more than you have years. In other words before you were born, and I just wonder why it is you want to exclude white people from your organization.

THOMAS — You say why?

Moderator — Yes, why.

THOMAS — Well, for the simple reason...

Sixth Speaker — That I've earned it. You know I've gone through a lot in the last 10 years or so. Ever since the days of the Scottsberg (phonetic) case. You'll defend white civil rights workers, won't you?

THOMAS — Sure, certainly.

Sixth Speaker — Well, why don't you let them participate in your organization too?

THOMAS — Wait a minute. It's just like the Jews having a Jewish organization that they only let Jews in and just like the White Citizens Council only let white people in; the John Birchers only let white people in. I could name you so many groups that don't have anything but whites...

Sixth Speaker — You are mistaken about many of these organizations because most organizations have dropped their bars.

THOMAS — I don't know of any blacks in the Ku Klux Klan or the Minutemen or the Birchers.

Moderator — Are you comparing yourself to the Ku Klux Klan?

THOMAS — No. It's just being a black organization, and nothing wrong with being a black organization.

Sixth Speaker — No, but you say that the purpose of your organization is to defend the rights of the Negro, to work for his dignity. I approve of these aims, generally speaking, although I don't know about the pistol packing part. But suppose a white person was just as much interested as you in defending the dignity and the rights of the Negro people. Why should he be barred from a group like that?

Moderator — And before you answer I would like to ask you this question. A moment ago you said to a woman that the pigmentation of her skin may have been... That she was white on the inside but her skin was dark. What about a person being...

THOMAS — White and dark inside?

Moderator — Yes.

THOMAS — Well, that's true. I accept this fact. But also...

Sixth Speaker — You know how many white civil rights workers have been killed in the South?

THOMAS — Pardon?

Sixth Speaker — You know how many whites have been killed in the South.

THOMAS — True.

Sixth Speaker — People who have gone in there fighting against segregation and for civil rights.

THOMAS — And we've protected more white civil rights workers than we did black civil rights workers, but anyone that even was down South and ran across any of the Deacons or happen to know me personally know that I'm a pretty nice fellow to meet but when we hold our membership this is what it is. We have a lot of whites that we work with.

Sixth Speaker — But when you treat white civil rights workers and people who are on your side whose skin happen to be white, when you treat them as if they are the enemy and they can't belong to your organization then you're giving a lot of fuel to the fire then....

Copies of this Memo have been disseminated locally at Chicago, Illinois to the United States Attorney, Secret Service, and to Region I, 113th INT Group.

APPENDIX

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED, aka DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) as on file with the Secretary of State, for the State of Louisiana, reflects that the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated is a Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The location and business office address of its registered office shall be Amos Service Station (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

"This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes:

To instruct, train, "teach and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principals of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Louisiana, as well as the constitution and laws of any other State wherein this corporation may operate; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the use, value and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen: To further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law."

APPENDIX

FBI

Date: 6/22/66

Transmit the following in _____ CONFIDENTIAL
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRMAIL
(Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-0013)

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION TO PROTEST THE SHOOTING
OF JAMES H. MEREDITH
RM

Re New Orleans teletype to Director and Jackson dated 6/22/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are seven (7) copies of LHM captioned as above suitable for dissemination; with five (5) copies for the Jackson Division.

Copies of LHM disseminated to Secret Service and ICD, New Orleans.

[redacted] (1) b1

Agency CIA, ONI, DIA, CID
JUN 23 1966
Date Form
New Form
By

NOT RECORDED
222 JUL 12 1966

CIRCLE UNIT
W - Laurent (Enc. 11) (RM)
J - Jackson (LM) (Enc. 5)
N - New Orleans

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gal/PK 7-23-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4, 2.0 2
DATE OF REVIEW 6-22-86

- CDM/srl
(7)

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent-in Charge

JUL 12 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
June 22, 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

DEMONSTRATION TO PROTEST THE SHOOTING OF JAMES H. MEREDITH

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CLASSIFIED BY SP1 Sal ... 7-23-80
REASON - FOIA 11, 1-2, 4, 2, 3
DATE OF REVIEW 6-22-86

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency

CONFIDENTIAL

DISCLOSURE

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 2 1966

TELETYPE

FBI BALTO

4-:5 4-05 PM EDST URGENT 7-2-66 PTK

TO DIRECTOR AND NEW ORLEANS AND JACKSON

FROM BALTIMORE 157-1008

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE (DDJ) RM.

b7D [redacted] CONFIRMED TODAY THAT ERNEST THOMAS IS IN BA AND DRIVING CHRYSLER SARATOGA, LA. LICENSE [redacted] -(FIRST THREE DIGITS ONLY). THOMAS ACCOMPANIED BY CHARLES SIMMS WHO IS DRIVING TAN OLDSMOBILE NINETY EIGHT, WITH MISS. LICENSE [redacted] THEY ARE STAYING AT MT. ROYAL HOTEL, BA. b7C

BA FILES REFLECT SIMMS PRESIDENT OF BOGALUSA CHAPTER DDJ.

ADVISE IF THOMAS OWNS SUCH AN AUTOMOBILE AND FURNISH COMPLETE NUMBER. JACKSON CONFIRM MISS. LICENSE FOR SIMMS. FURNISH ALL PERTINENT INFO INCLUDING DESCRIPTIVE DATA RE SIMMS. ADVISE OF OTHER MEMBERS OF DDJ WHO MAY BE ACCOMPANYING THOMAS AND SIMMS AND FURNISH ALL DETAILS RE SUCH PERSONS. 157-2466-138

REC-96

CONTACT ALL LOGICAL SOURCES AND DETERMINE PURPOSE OF D.D.J. MEMBERS IN BALTIMORE.

15 JUL 6 1966

SUTEL.

END

JPM

55 JUL 12 1966

FBI WASH DC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 7-2-66

Information in attached being furnished to the Department.

RHH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-23-80 BY SP1 SEA 3V

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 2 1965

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

TELETYPE

CONFIDENTIAL

FBI NEW ORLS

10-16 PM CST URGENT 7-1-66 WSW

TO DIRECTOR AND BALTIMORE

FROM NEW ORLEANS 157-3290

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE /DDJ/RM.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Miss Gandy

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP/SLP
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2. 4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 7-1-86

[redacted]

(C)

b1

REC-93 157-3290-139

JUL 6 1965

(C)

55 JUL 12 1966

END OF PAGE ONE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE TWO

[redacted]

b1

[redacted] (C)

[redacted]

[redacted] (C)

END OF PAGE TWO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE THREE

THOMAS REPORTEDLY ATTENDING NATIONAL CORE CONVENTION BALTIMORE AT PRESENT TIME. CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN IN HANDLEING THE ABOE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE SOURCE.

WD AND ACK PLS

A HFL

FBI WASH DC

REM

FBI BALTO

NU DISC

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI CONFIDENTIAL DATE: 6/30/66

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (157-1561) (C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

SUBJECT: FRIENDS OF THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

The "Workers World", Volume VII, Number 20, dated 10/14/65, contained an article indicating CHARLES SIMS, founder of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, and ROBERT HICKS, Vice President of the Bogalusa, Louisiana, Voters League, will speak in New York on 10/23 and 25/65.

The article indicated RICTUE (RICQUE) LE SEUR, a friend of the Deacons in New York, announced the events from the newly opened office of the Friends of the Deacons for Defense and Justice (FDDJ), 271 West 125th St., Room 209, NY, NY.

The following information was furnished by [redacted] on the dates indicated:

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

[redacted]

b7D

b1

2-Bureau (RM)
1-New York
GAJ:mrw
(3)

REC 53 157-2466-140
MCT-14 1 JUL 1 1966

CONFIDENTIAL EX-103

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

DATE OF REVIEW 6-30-76

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c) b1

[redacted] that there will be a rally 12/26/65 at the Mount Morris Presbyterian Church for BILL EPTON. One of the sponsoring groups is the Harlem Friends of the Deacons. The purpose of the rally is to try to get BILL EPTON out of jail and to raise money for him. (c)

[redacted]

(c)

[redacted] (c)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

On 3/9/66, an attempt was made to pretext the FDDJ telephone number 749-8745, at which time it was determined that the number had been disconnected.

On 4/1/66, [redacted] b7C b7D reflect that on 6/14/65, RICQUE LE SEUR was listed as Treasurer, Staten Island Chapter, CORE. The record further reflects that LE SEUR is assistant to CHARLES SIMS of the Deacons, and that LE SEUR has been making use of the Deacons' funds and not advancing the cause of the group.

[redacted] b7C b7D

On 4/6/66, a pretext telephone call to 666-0787, the number listed on a pamphlet issued by the Harlem Committee for the Defense of Free Speech, was answered by an unidentified male who stated that neither he nor any of the other persons in the office know who to contact to join the Deacons. In fact, he stated he wished he did because he would join. He stated he does not believe there is such an organization in New York at the present time. (The number 666-0787 is listed to the Harlem Unemployment Center, 139 West 125th St.)

[redacted] b7D

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b7C b7I

On 4/22/66, [redacted] advised that he has no knowledge of any planned activities of the DDJ in the Pennsylvania, New Jersey or New York areas. [redacted]

He stated that [redacted] is in no way associated with the DDJ and has never expressed an interest in becoming affiliated with the organization. Although [redacted] did not elaborate, he expressed the feeling that [redacted], in his opinion, is not the type of individual he would want in the DDJ. [redacted] advised that EARNEST THOMAS, Vice President of the Jonesboro, Louisiana, DDJ, is presently in Jonesboro, Louisiana, and has not indicated that he has any knowledge of planned activities of the DDJ in Pennsylvania, New York, or New Jersey. [redacted] emphatically stated that if any such plans did exist, he would certainly be aware of them. He advised that he, himself, has no desire to become active in that area, and has heard no [redacted] leaders of the DDJ express a desire to do so.

On 5/4/66, [redacted] Branch Office of the Governor's Office of Urban Affairs, Room 209, 271 West 125th St., advised that the office, which they currently occupy, was empty when they moved in approximately the middle of April, 1966.

On 5/5/66, [redacted] 271 West 125th St., NYC, advised that Room 209 was sublet by a lawyer, (FNU) [redacted], to an unknown male whose name and nature of business [redacted] could not recall. He stated that he did recall a rent check from the "Friends of Deacons for Justice" or a similar name. He advised he would contact other persons more familiar with the former tenant in an effort to determine the individual's identity and nature of business.

[redacted] b1 there is no known current activity of the DDJ in the NYC area at the present time. Nothing has been heard recently about this group in Harlem or NYC. [redacted] b7C

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b7C b7

The following informants, familiar with racial activities in the NYC area, contacted during the month, of May, 1966, and could supply no additional information concerning the FDDJ, are identified as follows:

(C) [redacted] b1

It should be noted that various names have been set forth for this organization in accordance with literature and informant reports received by the NYO. However, there is a close relationship existing between the captioned organization and the DDJ to the extent that the names have, on occasion, been used interchangeably. Many of the individuals, mentioned herein as being associated with the captioned organization, have also been or are affiliated with other organizations and are now or have been subjects of Bureau cases. The informants, mentioned herein, with the exception of those so indicated, have provided reliable information in the past.

This case was opened to investigate the captioned organization to determine its organizational structure, officers, members and purposes. This case is being closed administratively for the following reasons:

(1) In view of the information previously set forth which indicates that the office, which at one time was rented by [redacted] under the organization's name, has since been vacated [redacted] b7C

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(2) The statement made by [redacted] on 4/24/66 indicating that he has no knowledge of any planned activities of the DDJ in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, or New York, and that if such plans did exist, he would certainly be aware of them. b7C b7D

(3) [redacted] who has reported on the captioned organization, indicated that there is noknown current activity in the Harlem or NYC area. (C) b1

(4) Other sources, who are familiar with racial activities in the NYC area, were unable to supply any information concerning captioned organization.

This case will be reopened upon receipt of information that the organization has become active in the New York area.

CONFIDENTIAL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 2 1966

TELETYPE

FBI NEW ORLS

4:57 PM CST URGENT 7-3-66 WSW

TO DIRECTOR, AND BALTIMORE /157-1008/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-3290/ /P/

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE /DDJ/ RM.

RE BALTIMORE TEL TODAY.

SOURCES, BAGALUSA, LA., ADVISED CHARLES SIMS SEEN IN BOGALUSA AT TWO P.M. TODAY. BACKGROUND INFORMATION RE SIMS BEING FORWARDED BALTIMORE AMSD.

[redacted] b7C

NEW ORLEANS SOURCE BELIVES CORE CONVENTION ONLY REASON FOR THOMAS BEING IN BALTIMORE. SIMS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END AND ACK PLS

WA JPM

FBI WASH DC

BA KGW

TU

REC-53 157-3290-14

JUL 6 1966

50 JUL 12 1966

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-23-80 BY SPI

FBI

Date: 7/5/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (157-1446) (RUC)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DENFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

Re New Orleans airtel and LHM dated 6-30-66.

Enclosed for Mobile is copy of referenced communication for its information and assistance in this matter.

Mobile is requested to handle the lead set forth in referenced airtel regarding notifying appropriate authorities concerning Alabama Governor GEORGE WALLACE.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-80 BY [illegible]

REC 65 157-2466-142

3 - Bureau
1 - New Orleans (157-3290) X-104
1 - Mobile (Enc.2)
1 - Birmingham
MME:et
(6)

70 JUL 13 1966

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M
Special Agent in Charge

SAC, Chicago 7/8/66

CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI (157-2466) 1 - Sha Shelton

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

ReNOairtel 6/30/66.

[redacted] b1

(c)

NOTE:

[redacted] b1

The DDJ is an all Negro organization which claims to afford armed protection to civil rights workers where local law enforcement protection is inefficient in the opinion of the DDJ. Disseminated to military agencies, Department, Community Relations Service and Internal Revenue Service at the Bureau.

RLS:deh
(4)

REC 82 157-2466-143

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP5 Sat/14 7-24-86
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-20 4.2(b) 2 X-113
DATE OF REVIEW 7-8-86

JUL 12 1986

313

89 JUL 18 1966

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

CONFIDENTIAL

Routing Slip
FD-1 (Rev. 12-6-66)

To:
XX Director
Att.: Deacons 5
☐ SAC
☐ ASAC
☐ Supv.
☐ Agent
☐ SE
☐ IC
☐ CC
☐ Steno
☐ Clerk

Date 6/29/66

FILE No.

Title DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. RACIAL MATTERS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-24-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

Re:

ACTION DESIRED

- ☐ Acknowledge
- ☐ Assign ____ Reassign ____
- ☐ Bring file
- ☐ Call me
- ☐ Correct
- ☐ Deadline ____
- ☐ Deadline passed
- ☐ Delinquent
- ☐ Discontinue
- ☐ Expedite
- ☐ File
- ☐ For information
- ☐ Handle
- ☐ Initial & return
- ☐ Leads need attention
- ☐ Open Case
- ☐ Prepare lead cards
- ☐ Prepare tickler
- ☐ Recharge serials
- ☐ Return assignment card
- ☐ Return file
- ☐ Return serials
- ☐ Search and return
- ☐ See me
- ☐ Send Serials ____ to ____
- ☐ Submit new charge out
- ☐ Submit report by ____
- ☐ Type
- ☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

Re attached routing slip.

Information furnished [redacted] as contained in LHM dated 6/20/66 was furnished to SA [redacted] [redacted]. b7D b7C

SAC [illegible]

Office Memphis

XX See reverse side

During course of contact SA [redacted] attempted b7C
to get further details but [redacted] furnished only b7D
that information contained in LHM of 6/20/66.

ROBERT E. RIGHTMYER
SAC

JUL 1 5 PM '66
JUL 1 1 PM '66

FBI

Date: 6/30/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

Enclosed herewith are 11 copies of a self explanatory LHM.

[redacted] b1

The LHM has been disseminated locally to the USA, Shreveport, Louisiana, Secret Service, ICG, MISC, New Orleans, as well as OSI Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, and USA, New Orleans.

[redacted] b1

[redacted] b1

3-Bureau (Enc.11)(RM)
1-Jackson (RM)(Encl)
1-Chicago (RM) (Encl)
1-WFO (Info.)(RM)(Encl)
1-Los Angeles (Info.)(RM) (Encl).
1-Cleveland (Info.)(RM) (Encl)
1-Birmingham (RM)(Encl)
1-New York (Info.)(RM) (Encl)
3-New Orleans (2- 157-3290)
[redacted] (C) b1

1-Baltimore (Info)(RM)

157-2466-144

JUL 4 1966

DCS/cac
(14)

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

CLASS. & EXT. BY _____
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4, 5
DATE OF REVIEW _____

AGENCY: DEPT. OF JUS. CRD. SEC.
DATE FORW: 7/7/66
HOW FORW:
BY:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

5 OCT 20 1966

FD-529 (10-20-78)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

4 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- [x] Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- [ ] Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- [ ] Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- [ ] Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consulation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

- [ ] For your information: _____
- [ ] The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages: _____

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X FOR THIS PAGE X
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FBI/DOJ

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b1

(C)

[redacted] b1

(C)

ERNEST THOMAS has an office in Chicago, Illinois, and it is at 1236 Pulaski Street, Chicago, Illinois. (C)

[redacted] b1

(C)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b1

(e)

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

-3b (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 6/20/66

Send the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3230)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

(OO: NO)

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are eight copies of a LHM captioned as above and suitable for dissemination. Two copies being enclosed for Baltimore. Copies disseminated to Secret Service and USCG, New Orleans.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 8)
2 - Baltimore (Enc. 2)
2 - New Orleans

JEO:med
(7)

ENCLOSURE

0-7 to NO 6/28/66 for approp. action. Properly submit for return R/S information clearing b7c when b7D the info. contained in LHM. NJM/cc

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-24-81 BY

REC-59 157-2466-145

JUN 21 1966

AGENCY: ACS, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.
DEPT: SD, CRD, [redacted], Gen. Counsel
DATE FORW: 7/5/66
HOW FORW: RS
BY: NJM/cc

54 JUL 18 1966

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana

June 20, 1966

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

On June 13, 1966, [redacted] advised that the DDJ of Bogalusa is planning to go to Baltimore, Maryland, sometime after the completion of the present Meredith march in Mississippi.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] stated that no specific date has been set for the trip to Baltimore but added that it is definitely planned. He further stated that the number of Deacons who will participate in this endeavor has not been decided upon at this time.

[redacted]

[redacted] declined to furnish a membership list and indicated he would not do so at any time.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-24-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

157-2466-145

CONFIDENTIAL

1

APPENDIX

AMERICAN NAZI PARTY,
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

A source advised on November 14, 1960, that on that date a meeting was held in Chicago, Illinois, for the purpose of organizing a Chicago unit of the American Nazi Party(ANP) which maintains headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL, National Commander, ANP, took charge of this meeting.

On May 22, 1966, [redacted] ANP, Chicago, advised that the ANP in Chicago is to a degree autonomous although it remains subject to the final authority of GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL and ANP National Headquarters.

b7C
b7D

A second source advised on January 6, 1966, that the Chicago branch of the ANP is currently located at 1314 West Ohio Street, Chicago, Illinois.

A characterization of the national organization follows.

CONFIDENTIAL

1

APPENDIX

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC., KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (UNITED KLANS)

Records of Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, show that this Klan organization was granted a corporate charter on February 21, 1961, at Atlanta, Georgia, under the name United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

A source advised on February 27, 1961, that United Klans was formed as a result of a split in the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc. According to the source, the split resulted from a leadership dispute and United Klans has the same aims and objectives as the parent group. These are the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy and segregation of the races.

The first source and a second source advised in July, 1961, that United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc., merged with Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The merged organization established headquarters in Suite 401, the Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The organization is directed by Robert Shelton, Imperial Wizard, and is the dominant Klan group in the South with units in several Southern cities.

On August 14, 1961, the second source advised that the organization formerly known as United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc., would be known in the future as United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The second source said the name was changed by a resolution adopted at the National Klonvocation held July 8, 1961, at Indian Springs Georgia.

The second source advised that at a meeting at Prattville, Alabama, on October 22, 1961, a majority of the Klaverns of the U.S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan merged with the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

APPENDIX

CONFIDENTIAL

NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY (NSRP)

On November 26, 1957, a source advised that the United White Party (UWP) was organized at a convention held in Knoxville, Tennessee, on November 10, 1957. An article in the November 26, 1957, issue of the "Greenville Piedmont," a newspaper of Greenville, North Carolina, reported "the recent formation of a new political party, to be known as the United White Party." According to the article, the party was formed at a recently held meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee, at which many Klansmen were represented. The UWP was reported as being opposed to all "race mixing organizations and individuals."

The July, 1958, issue of "The Thunderbolt," self-described as the "official Racial Nationalist Organ of the National States Rights Party" (NSRP), reported that rank and file "States Righters" had merged with the UWP under "the banner of the National States Rights Party," with national offices at Post Office Box 261, Jeffersonville, Indiana.

In November, 1958, a source advised that the NSRP is composed of past members of Klan-type organizations and notorious anti-Semites.

Issue No. 19, dated June, 1960, of "The Thunderbolt" announced the address of the headquarters of the NSRP had been changed from Jeffersonville, Indiana, to Post Office Box 793, Birmingham, Alabama.

Issue No. 69, dated July, 1965, of "The Thunderbolt" announced the address of the new headquarters of the NSRP as Post Office Box 184, Augusta, Georgia.

On August 4, 1965, a source advised that EDWARD R. FIELDS, the Information Director of the NSRP and Editor of "The Thunderbolt," is the individual who actually controls the NSRP

Issue No. 72, dated November, 1965, of "The Thunderbolt" reflects Dr. EDWARD R. FIELDS to be National Director of the NSRP as well as Editor of "The Thunderbolt."

"The Thunderbolt" continues to publish articles attacking Negroes and persons of the Jewish faith.

CONFIDENTIAL

1 APPENDIX CONFIDENTIAL

NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

A source advised on February 8, 1966, that the Chicago Branch of the National States Rights Party (NSRP) is located at the NSRP National Bookshop at 2237 North Western Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. The Chicago Branch of the NSRP was officially opened on December 29, 1965, when Dr. EDWARD R. FIELDS, National Director of the NSRP, spoke at a rally held at 2237 North Western Avenue, Chicago.

RAYMOND LEO SCHULTZ, an organizer for the Chicago Branch of the NSRP, resides at 2237 North Western Avenue, Chicago.

This source also advised that the National Office of the NSRP is located at Augusta, Georgia, and the Chicago Branch of the NSRP subscribes to the policies of the National Office of the NSRP. The NSRP believes that there should not be race mixing between whites and Negroes and that Negroes in the United States by conducting demonstrations and causing riots are causing a breakdown of law and order in the United States. The NSRP also believes that the Jewish people are financing many of the Negro demonstrations, and, therefore, the Jewish people are responsible for race miximg and the breakdown of law and order in the United States. The NSRP believes that the Jews and the Negroes should be exposed in their attempts to have integration between whites and Negroes.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

1

NATIONAL KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, INC. (NKKK)

A source advised that on May 22, 1960, the National Grand Council of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan met at Atlanta, Georgia, to discuss consolidation of the Klan's unity of effort and activities to establish a National Fund, and a National Secretary, and to design a new flag. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Federation of the Ku Klux Klan, Alabama; Association of Arkansas Klans, Arkansas; Florida Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Florida; Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Florida; Association of Georgia Klans, Georgia; Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, North Carolina; Association of South Carolina Klans, South Carolina; Dixie Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Tennessee; and Kyksos Klan, Texas.

This source advised that at a consolidation meeting at Atlanta, Georgia, September 2-5, 1960, at which the North Carolina and Texas Klans were not represented, it was resolved and passed that their name be changed to National Ku Klux Klan.

A second source advised in March, 1964, that several meetings of Klan groups were held during the period of 1960 to 1963 in an effort to unite the Klan groups under a single leadership.

The organization was granted a charter in De Kalb County, Georgia, November 1, 1963, under the name National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., as a "patriotic, secret, social and benevolent order".

A third source advised in December, 1963, that the organization had issued a statement of its program which indicated the organization to be anti-Negro, anti-Jewish, anti-Catholic, and anti-Foreign born.

The third source advised in August, 1964, that the organization has a headquarters in Tucker, Georgia, and the day-to-day operations are under the direction of James R. Venable, Chairman.

CONFIDENTIAL

CHICAGO

TO . . CDBT URGENT 8-27-66 JAZ

. DIRECTOR, CLEVELAND, CINCINNATI, MILWAUKEE AND SPRINGFIELD

FROM CHICAGO (157-NEW), 4P

WEST SIDE ORGANIZATION TO END SLUMS (WSO) PROPOSED MARCH, AUG

NINTY EIGHT, SIXTY SIX, TO CICERO ILLINOIS. RM

CITIZENS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE (CDJ), RM

NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY (NSRP) RM (ORGANIZATION)

NATIONAL KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, RM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-25-86 BY [illegible]

RECENT AUGUST TWENTY SIX AND TWENTY SEVEN DEMONSTRATIONS BY CHICAGO FREEDOM MOVEMENT (CFM) - SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC), CAGEPARK AREA, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS."

[redacted] ADVISED INSTANT WSO MEETING PRESENTLY IN PROGRESS. b7D

DEFINITE INFORMATION RE PROPOSED MARCH NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL APPROXIMATELY

SIX PM, INSTANT.

SPRINGFIELD LIAISON WITH OFFICE OF ILL. GOVERNOR KERNER

ADVISED TWO TELEGRAMS RECEIVED KERNER'S OFFICE AFTERNOON, INSTANT DATE,

REQUESTING ILL. NATIONAL GUARD CALL-UP AUGUST TWENTY EIGHT NEXT.

157-2466

ONE TELEGRAM FROM COOK COUNTY, ILL., SHERIFF RICHARD B. OGILVIE

FBI - RECORDED
AUG 31 1966

OTHER FROM CHRISTY BERKOS, CITY ATTORNEY, CICERO, ILLINOIS.

END PAGE ONE [redacted] b7C

62 SEP 13 1966

4-750 (2-7-79)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☑ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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☐ For your information: _____

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☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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FBI/DOJ

PAGE THREE 157-NEW

[redacted]

[redacted] ADVISED AUGUST TWENTY SIX LAST, THAT AUTO BEARING SIGN "KU KLUX KLAN RALLY, CHICAGO SOON" WAS SURVEILLED TO REAR OF HOME OF [redacted] ON AUGUST TWENTY ONE LAST. SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS WERE UNLOADING SIGNS AND OTHER KKK PARAPHERNALIA FROM CARS INTO GARAGE AT ABOVE ADDRESS. A FEW [redacted] UNDOUBTEDLY IDENTICAL [redacted] AKRON, OHIO, KKKKK MEMBER ARRESTED MARQUETTE PARK, CG, AUG. TWENTYONE LAST. STATED HE WAS ARRESTED IN MARQUETTE PARK, CG, AUGUST TWENTY ONE FOR SPEAKING WITHOUT PERMIT AND [redacted] HOLD OFFICERS MATERIAL BEING STORED FOR CG KU KLUX KLAN RALLY. SEVERAL OF CARS AT ABOVE LOCATION BORE SIXTY SIX OHIO LICENSES. [redacted] MAINTAINING SURVEILLANCE OF GARAGE AND [redacted] IN EVENT MATERIAL IS USED IN COUNTER DEMONSTRATION AT CICERO, ILLINOIS AUGUST TWENTY EIGHT NEXT.

[redacted] KNOWN MEMBER WSRP.

[redacted] ADVISED INSTANT THREE MEMBERS KKK, PRESENTLY STAYING [redacted] INDIVIDUALS ARE [redacted]

END PAGE THREE

b7C
b7D

[redacted]; [redacted] NO ADDRESS LISTED; AND
FNU [redacted] POSSIBLY IDENTICAL [redacted], WISCONSIN KLAN
MEMBER, NO ADDRESS LISTED. [redacted] UNDERSTANDS INDIVIDUALS IN CG TO
RECRUIT KKK MEMBERS RE PROPOSED CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH INTO CICERO, ILL.,
ON AUGUST TWO EIGHT INSTANT.

SPRINGFIELD WILL MAINTAIN LIAISON ILL. GOVERNOR KERNER. MILWAUKEE
ESTABLISH WHEREABOUTS [redacted] AND ADVISE. CLEVELAND CONTACT
SOURCES AND ESTABLISH [redacted] IN CG AREA AND/OR OTHER MEMBERS.
CINCINNATI ADVISE IF ANY KNOWN NKKKK MEMBERS HAVE TRAVELED CHICAGO-
CICERO AREA. CHICAGO FOLLOWING. USA, MILITARY, SECRET SERVICE AND
CICERO, ILL. PD ADVISED. LHM FOLLOWS.

END

WA..RCH

FBI WASH DC

CV..WMP

FBI CLEVELAND

CI..MSW

FBI CINCINNTI

MI..MRF

FBI MILWAUK

SI..BGO

FBI SPRNGFLD

TU ALL CLR

b7C
b7I

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
AUG 9 1966

TELETYPE

FBI WASH-DC

CONFIDENTIAL

FBI CHICAGO

947 PM CDST - URGENT 8-9-66 DHM

TO DIRECTOR

FROM CHICAGO (157-572) (157-1324)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. RM.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

NEGRO YOUTH DISTURBANCE, HARVEY, ILLINOIS AUGUST FOUR-FIVE, LAST RM.

FOLLOWING INFORMATION RECEIVED AUGUST NINE, INSTANT:

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted] ALSO ADVISED DDJ ENDEAVORING TO OPEN OFICES IN HARVEY, CHICAGO HEIGHTS AND EVANSTON, ILLINOIS.

[redacted] FROM WHAT HE LEARNED DDJ NOT VIOLENT GROUP BUT WOULD USE FORCE IF RESISTED IN THEIR OPERATIONS. HE HAS NO FURTHER BACKGROUND OR NAMES AT PRESENT TIME.

END PAGE ONE

DATE OF REVIEW

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE TWO

[redacted] b1

[redacted] THAT DDJ AT CHICAGO HAS NO ARMS ARSENAL AND (C)
WHAT WEAPONS ARE AVAILABLE ARE OWNED PERSONALLY BY INDIVIDUAL
MEMBERS. DDJ IS IN FORMATIVE STATE IN CHICAGO AREA AND
IS ENDEAVORING TO ORGANIZE, OBTAIN FINANCES AND RECRUITS.

LIAISON ESTABLISHED WITH [redacted] b7C b7D
[redacted]. BUREAU
WILL BE ADVISED OF PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS. USA, SECRET SERVICE AND
MILITARY ADVISED. LHM FOLLOWS.

END

WA..RCH

FBI WASH DC

TU CLR

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 9/13/66

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RM
(Bureau File 157-2466)
(NO File 157-3290)
(WFO File 157-794)
(CG File 157-572)

[redacted]
RM
(Bureau File 157-4946)
(NO File 157-5290)
(WFO File 157-801)
(CG File 157-840)

b7C

Re Chicago airtel to Bureau dated 7/19/66, and WFO airtel to Bureau dated 8/22/66.

[redacted], Passport Office, U. S. Department of State, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, advised SA [redacted] on 9/12/66, that passport number [redacted] was issued and picked up at Chicago, Illinois, on 7/13/66, by one EARNEST THOMAS. No address was listed for THOMAS. [redacted]

[redacted] said THOMAS' passport file had been forwarded to the Department of State, Washington, D. C.

LEADS

WFO

5 - Bureau
1 - WFO
4 - New Orleans
2 - Chicago
WMP:cpy
(15)

REC-61 157-2466-162

15 SEP 14 1966

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-25-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

59 SEP 22 [illegible]

CG 157-840

AT WASHINGTON, D.C. 1. Will check passport file b7C
[redacted], U. S. Department of State, and report travel and background data regarding EARNEST THOMAS.

2. Will also provide copies of passport photograph to New Orleans and Chicago.

3. WFO is requested to report passport and background data in letterhead memorandum form suitable for dissemination with extra copies to Chicago for military and Secret Service.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: Director, FBI (157-2466) DATE: 9/20/66
Attention: 157-4946

FROM: Legat, Paris (157-9) (RUC)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RM (Organization)
[redacted], RM
(OO - New Orleans)

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Re Chicago airtel to Bureau 7/19/66.

[redacted]

b1

(c)

X-106 REC-47 157-2466

NOT RECORDED
12 SEP 26 1966

XEROX
OCT 10 1966

Remarks: No information has been received from the above sources. If pertinent information comes to their attention, we will be advised.

5 - Bureau
(1 - Liaison Section)
(2 - New Orleans, 157-3290, Info.)
1 - Paris
NWP:eim
(6)

CLASS. & EXT. BY [illegible]
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2.3
DATE OF REVIEW [illegible]

2cc's to NO for info by 0-7.

1cc 922 940

CONFIDENTIAL

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-107-02

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (157-2466) (157-4946) DATE: 9/26/66

FROM : Legat, London (157-102) (RUC)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RM

[redacted] b7C

RM

[redacted] b1

(3) - Bureau (Encls. 2)
1 - Liaison (sent direct)
1 - London
LM:cm
(5)

REC 30 157-2466-164

12 OCT 3 1966

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP/SAL/JFA 7-25-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4, 2, 3
DATE OF REVIEW 9-26-86

INT. SUBV.

OCT 14 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

CONFIDENTIAL

9/28/66

1 - Shackelford

To: SACs New Orleans (157-3290)
New York (157-1542)

From: Director, FBI (157-2466)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. (DDJ)
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

ReNYtel 9/26/66 and NOtel 9/26/66.

[redacted] (C)

b1

[redacted] (C)

[redacted]

COMM-FBI

1 - Bufile 100-442684 (RAM)

RLS:deh
(7)

SEE NOTE PAGE 2.

REC 46 157-2466-165

EX-114

18 OCT 6 1966

53 OCT 10 1966

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 520 1.4 7.35(b)
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2 b 2
DATE OF REVIEW 9-28-86

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

CONFIDENTIAL

Airtel to New Orleans and New York
Re: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
15 -2466

CONFIDENTIAL

NOTE:

[redacted]

b1

CONFIDENTIAL

FBI

Date: SEP 27 1966

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RM (ORGANIZATION)
(NYfile 157-1542)(RUC)
(Bufile 157-2466)
(OO:NO)

[redacted] b7C

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY 3595
REASON FOR EXTENSION FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 3/4/80

RM
(NYfile 157-1636)(RUC)
(Bufile 157-4946)
(OO:NO)

ReCGairtel to Director, 7/19/66, NYairtel to Director dated 8/29/66, captioned "REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT; IS-RAM", NY teletype to Director dated 9/26/66 and NO teletype to Director, 9/26/66.

[redacted]

b1

EX-114
REC 28

12 SEP 28 1966

GAJ:mtk
(16)

C.C. Wick

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

20CT 17 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

4-750 (2-7-79)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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- [x] Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1) and (b)(7)(C) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- [ ] Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
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- [ ] Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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- [ ] For your information: _____

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- [ ] The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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XXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

TELETYPE UNIT
SEP 26 1966
FLOODE - MESSAGE

Mr. Tolson
Mr DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Wick
Mr Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr Conrad
Mr Felt
Mr Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY SP5 LRS/JLC
REASON FOR EXTENSION FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR EXTENSION 9-26-86
DECLASSIFICATION 3/4/80

NY---14

FBI NEW YORK

7-16 PM URGENT 9-26-66 JVD

TO DIRECTOR AND NEW ORLEANS

NEW ORLEANS VIA WASHINGTON ---- ENCODED---

FROM NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION);

[redacted] RACIAL MATTERS, (OO- NEW ORLEANS)

b7c

RE CHICAGO AIRTEL TO DIRECTOR, DATED JULY NINETEEN LAST.

[redacted] (C)

b1

[redacted]

[redacted] (C)

REC- 28 157-2466-161

[redacted]

NEW YORK AIRTEL WITH BACKGROUND DETAILS FOLLOWS. (U)

END

WA ~~PLS ACK FOR RELAY ON NR 13 AND 14~~

WA...EFH R RELAY

FBI WASH DC

CONFIDENTIAL

RELAYED TO

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
SEP 27 1966
TELETYPE

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Wick
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

1143PM URGENT 9-26-66 RJS

TO DIRECTOR AND NEW YORK

FROM NEW ORLEANS 157-3290

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., RM.; [redacted] b7C

RM. OO: NEW ORLEANS. (U)

RE NEW YORK TEL INSTANT DATE. (U)

[redacted] ADVISED THAT b7C b7D

ERNEST THOMAS WAS OBSERVED IN JONESBORO, LA., NINE TWENTYFIVE SIXTYSIX. [redacted] UNABLE TO ADVISE AS TO THOMAS'S DATE OF ARRIVAL AT JONESBORO. (U)

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (C)

END.

JMS

FBI WASH DC

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY SPR
REASON FOR EXTENSION 2
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 3-4-80

REC-28 157-3290-16

EX-114

14 OCT 6 1966

51 OCT 6 1966

9/27/66

RLS

CONFIDENTIAL

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 9-30-66

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL REGISTERED MAIL (Priority) CONFIDENTIAL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-111166)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-1465)
(157-1393)

COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR BLACK POWER
RM

CONFERENCE ON BLACK POWER, OCTOBER 15-16, 1966, WASHINGTON, D. C.
RM

ReCGairtel and LHM dated 9/26/66 captioned, "Coordinating Council for Black Power," and Buairtel dated 9/20/66 captioned, "Conference on Black Power, October 15-16, 1966, Washington, D. C."

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are 17 copies of a LHM concerning captioned matters. Copies are being designated as noted for Atlanta, New Orleans, New York, and WFO for information in connection with organizations or activities of interest to these offices.

The sources utilized in the enclosed LHM are as follows:

[redacted]

(1) b1

ENCLOSURE

157-2466

JCS:MDW
(see page 2 for copies)

CONFIDENTIAL

NOT RECORDED
202 OCT 13 1966

55 OCT 18 1966

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY ... REASON FOR EXTENSION FCIM, II, 1.4.2 DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 9-30-86

APPROPRIATE ... AND FIELD OFFICES REVISED BY ... SLIP (S) OF ... DATE ...

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

CG 157-1465
CG 157-1393

Copies:

9-Bureau (Enc. 17)(RM)
(1 - 100-439190 (SNCC)
(1 - 100-440855 (CORE)
(1 - 100-441968 (ACT)
(1 - 157-2466 (DDJ)
(1 - 100-441164 (DCA)
2-Atlanta (Enc. 2)(RM)(SNCC)

1-New Orleans (Enc. 1)(Info)(RM)
(1 - 157- (DDJ)
2-WFO (Enc. 2)(RM)
(2 - 157-1023 (Conference on Black Power, 10/15-16/66, Washington, D.C.)
3-New York (Enc. 3)(RM)
(2 - 100- (CORE)
(1 - 100- [redacted]
10-Chicago
(1 - 157-413)
(1 - 100-34347 [redacted]
(1 - 100-41635 [redacted]
(1 - 157-303 (ACT)
(1 - 100-40342 (SNCC)
(1 - 100-11329 (CORE)
(1 - 157- (West Side Organization)
(1 - 100-40865 (DCA)
(1 - 157-572 (DDJ)
JCS:MDW
(28)

b7C

CG 157-1465
CG 157-1393

Chicago is continuing to follow closely the activities of the Coordinating Council for Black Power as well as matters pertaining to the 10/15-16/66 Conference of Black Power in Washington and information which is subsequently obtained concerning both these matters will be appropriately forwarded to Bureau and interested offices.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

157-1463
157-1303

Chicago, Illinois
September 30 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY ... REASON FOR EXTENSION ... FCIM, II ... DATE OF ... DECLASSIFICATION ...

COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR BLACK POWER
RACIAL MATTERS

CONFERENCE ON BLACK POWER, OCTOBER 15-16, 1966, WASHINGTON, D. C.
RACIAL MATTERS

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP (S) OF DATE

Reference is made to Chicago memorandum dated September 26, 1966, under the caption "Coordinating Council for Black Power; Racial Matters."

The sources utilized in this memorandum have furnished reliable information in the past.

[redacted] b7D

[redacted]

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR BLACK POWER

CONFERENCE ON BLACK POWER, OCTOBER 15-16, 1966, WASHINGTON, D.C.

b7D

[redacted]

On September 29, 1966, a second confidential source advised that a meeting was held at ACT headquarters in Chicago during the evening hours of September 28, 1966, with some 35 to 40 persons present. Among those in attendance were Landry and Sharp who, for all practical purposes, ran the meeting. Discussion at this meeting centered around efforts to define the theme Black Power with Landry pointing out that much of the money involved in the Black Power movement was "Jewish money" and consequently the Black Power movement, itself, was not entirely Negro in nature. He made reference to having attended a meeting in New York City, New York, within the past week with Congressman Adam Clayton Powell at which meeting he had learned of the origin of much of the funds used to finance the Black Power movement. In this connection, this second source advised that he has learned that Landry reportedly makes periodic trips to Florida and New York to pick up money.

Sharp stressed the necessity of organizing local communities in terms of Black Power, this organization to begin with the education of Negro youths. "Truth Squads" should be set up with their members to attend local high school athletic functions in efforts to contact and influence teenagers and students to this end. Additionally, Negro youth gangs were to be sought out with efforts made to enlist their support for the Black Power movement locally.

A third source contacted on September 29, 1966, furnished information concerning the September 28, 1966, meeting which substantiated that set forth above. Additionally, however, this third source advised that among those organizations known to have been represented by those present were the following:

COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR BLACK POWER

CONFERENCE ON BLACK POWER, OCTOBER 15-16, 1966, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ACT

Congress on Racial Equality (CORE)

Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc. (DDJ)

Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)

W.E.B. Du Bois Clubs of Chicago (DCC)

West Side Organization, a militant civil rights organization active primarily on Chicago's West Side

This source also stated that at this meeting it was recommended that this group initiate the publication of a local neighborhood newspaper to give wider circulation to its views and the furtherance of the theme of Black Power. It is the understanding of this source that this group of people, representative of these various organizations, and chiefly under the impetus provided by Landry and Sharp, are attempting to form a nucleus of support for the general Black Power Movement in Chicago, with a leadership group which will be utilizing the name Coordinating Council for Black Power.

Characterizations of the DDJ, W. E. B. Du Bois Clubs of America (DCA), and DCC will be found in the appendix section attached to this memorandum. The sources utilized in these characterizations have furnished reliable information in the past.

[redacted] b7C

Copies of this memorandum are being provided to the Office of the United States Attorney, Chicago, to Secret Service, Chicago, as well as to Region I, 113th INTC Group, Evanston, Illinois.

1

APPENDIX

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.,
aka Deacons for Defense and Justice,
Inc.

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) as on file with the Secretary of State, for the State of Louisiana, reflects that the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., is a Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The location and business office address of its registered office shall be Amos Service Station (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B. Jonesboro, Louisiana.

"This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes:

"To instruct, train, 'teach and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principles of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Louisiana, as well as the constitution and laws of any other state wherein this corporation may operate; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the use, value, and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen: to further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law.'"

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APPENDIX

W.E.B. DU BOIS CLUBS OF AMERICA (DCA)

b1

[redacted]

C

A second source has advised that the founding convention for the new youth organization was held from June 19-21, 1964, at 150 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, at which time the name W.E.B. DuBois Clubs of America (DCA) was adopted. Approximately 500 delegates from throughout the United States attended this convention. The aims of this organization, as set forth in the preamble to the constitution, are: "It is our belief that this nation can best solve its problems in an atmosphere of peaceful coexistence, complete disarmament and true freedom for all peoples of the world, and that these solutions will be reached mainly through the united efforts of all democratic elements in our country, composed essentially of the working people allied in the unity of Negroes and other minorities with whites. We further fully recognize that the greatest threat to American democracy comes from the racist and right wing forces in coalition with the most reactionary sections of the economic power structure, using the tool of anti-Communism to divide and destroy the unified struggle of the working people."

Over the Labor Day weekend, 1965, the DCA held a conference in Chicago, Illinois, and a new slate of officers was elected to the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the DCA. Since Labor Day, 1965, identities of those serving on the NEC has varied; however, according to a third source as of May, 1966, thirteen of the fifteen members of the NEC were members of the CP in the San Francisco Bay area.

As of July, 1966, the headquarters of the DCA was located at 180 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois.

X

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APPENDIX

W.E.B. DU BOIS CLUBS
OF CHICAGO (DCC)

On May 3, 1965, a source advised that on June 30, 1964, a group of young people who attended the founding conventio of the W.E.B. DuBois Clubs of America (DCA), met in Chicago and adopted a statement of purpose and constitution forming the DCC as an affiliate of the national DCA.

This source further advised that at a meeting of the Chicago Area of the Midwest Region of the DCA held April 3, 1965, the boundary of the Chicago Area was established to include all of Illinois north of Springfield, Illinois, and all of Indiana. At this meeting, TED PEARSON was elected Area Coordinator.

A second source advised on May 9, 1966, that as of May, 1966, TED PEARSON, Chairman of the Youth Club of the Communist Party (CP) of Illinois, continued to be the Chicago Area Coordinator of the DCA, and the official headquarters is located at the PEARSON apartment, 1808 North Cleveland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

The second source advised that there are currently two clubs operating in the Chicago Area, one on the west side and the other on the near north side. The west side club operat a club house known as the West Side Freedom Center at 2908 West Madison Street which is open seven days a week to the teen-agers on the west side.

-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B CONFIDENTIAL

Date: 10/3/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

A i r t e l
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)
(157-4946)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RM (ORGANIZATION)
OO: NEW ORLEANS

[redacted] b7C
RM
OO: NEW ORLEANS

Re New York airtel to Bureau, 9/27/66. (U)

[redacted] (C) b1

OCT 10 1966

EX-114

REC 11

b7C/157-2466-1(U)

0 - Bureau (RM)
5 - New Orleans (RM)
(2 - 157-3290) (RM)
(3 - 157-2800) [redacted] (C) b1
2 - New York (RM) (Info)
(1 - 157-5432)
(1 - 157-1696)
2 - Chicago
(1 - 157-972)
(1 - 157-940)

WMP:SAH
(12)

12 OCT 6 1966

C.C. Wick

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 526 1 4.7 SYNT. SEC.
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 2. 3
DATE OF REVIEW 10-3-86

NOFORN-CONFIDENTIAL

55 OCT 18 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

1 - Liaison
1 - Basher

SECRET

BY LIAISON

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible] 7-25-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4, b 2, 3
DATE OF REVIEW 10-11-86

Date: October 11, 1966

To: Director
Central Intelligence Agency

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director

Subject: [redacted] (S) b1
REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT

[redacted] (S) b1 b7C

The Revolutionary Action Movement is an all-Negro, Marxist-Leninist oriented organization which follows the Chinese Communist line and leadership of Robert F. Williams, a Negro fugitive from justice in voluntary exile in Cuba, who advocates achieving of Negro rights by violence if necessary, including guerrilla warfare.

[redacted] b1 b7C

(S) 157-2466

NOT RECORDED

SECRET

100-442384 (RAM)

COPY 1

~~Predated from automatic downgrading and declassification~~

PTB:dch
(6)

SEE NOTE PAGE 3.

550CT 17 1966

DECLASSIFIED

(1) - 157-2466 (Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc.)

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

4-750 (2-7-79)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☑ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1) and (b)(7)(C) with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

SECRET

Director
Central Intelligence Agency

[redacted] (S)

[redacted] (S)

b1
b7C

NOTE:

The above information was furnished the Bureau by New York airtel dated 9/30/63 captioned "Revolutionary Action Movement, IS-RAM."

[redacted] (S)

[redacted] (S)

SECRET

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 10/12/66

FROM : [illegible]

SUBJECT: [illegible]
[illegible] JUSTICE, [illegible]
RACIAL MATTERS
(Bufile 157-4946)
(CGfile 157-570)
(Dfile 157-5290)
(WFOfile 157-796) (P)

[redacted] b7C

RACIAL MATTERS
(Bufile 157-4946)
(CGfile 157-540)
(Dfile 157-5290)
(WFOfile 157-801) (P)

[illegible] teletype dated 9/1[illegible]/66, which [illegible] of Passport Office, United States Department of [illegible] concerning [illegible].

[illegible] of 10/7/66, the Passport Office [illegible] to look [illegible] a record reflecting issuance of a passport [illegible] MATTER.

WFO will continue contact [illegible] while further search is being made for passport [illegible] concerning [illegible].

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-25-80 BY [illegible]

(1) - Bureau
[illegible] - Chicago (RM)
[illegible] - New Orleans (RM)
[illegible] - WFO

REC 10 [illegible] 170

12 OCT 14 1966

[illegible]

HHB/[illegible]
(11)

56 OCT 21 1966

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN JO [illegible]

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-108

TOP SECRET

SAC, New Orleans (100-16890) (157-3290) 10/12/66

Director, FBI (100-442684) (157-2466)

1 - Mr. Basher
1 - Mr. Shackelford

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM)
INTERNAL SECURITY - RAM

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., (DDJ)
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

ReNYtel 9/26/66, NOtel 9/27/66, and NYairtel 9/27/66, all captioned "Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., (DDJ), Racial Matters (Organization); [redacted] LM"; and Buairtel 9/28/66 captioned "Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., (DDJ), Racial Matters (Organization). b7C

[redacted] b1 (2)

[redacted] b1 b7C (15)

New Orleans should make suitable arrangements to monitor [redacted], in order to determine if [redacted] has handled large sums of money recently, particularly since his return from Europe. New Orleans should make every effort to pin down the date of [redacted] return to the United States, and, if possible, his activities and travels since his return. b7C

New York should attempt to determine if [redacted] has been in contact with [redacted] or other RAM members since his return to the United States. b7C

[redacted] b1 b7C (5)

Enclosures - 4

157-2466

New York (100-147003) (157-1542) (Enclosures - 4)

NOT RECORDED
165 OCT 14 1966

TOP SECRET

RLS:frw/brr
(10)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gdl/fb 7-25-66
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4, 42 2 SEE NOTE PAGE TWO
DATE OF REVIEW 10-12-86

55 OCT 17 1966

TOP SECRET

[redacted] b1 b7C

[redacted] (S)

[redacted] b1

(C)

NOTE: See NYairtel 9/30/66, "Revolutionary Action Movement, IS - RAM," re last three paragraphs.

[redacted] b1

(C)

TOP SECRET

Legat, London

TOP SECRET

10/13/66

Director, FBI (100-442684) (157-2466)

1 - Mr. Basher
1 - Mr. Shackelford

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM)
INTERNAL SECURITY -RAM

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., (DDJ)
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

Reurlet 9/26/66 captioned "Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., RM; [redacted], RM." b7C

[redacted] (C) b1

[redacted] (TS) b1

[redacted] (C) b1

[redacted] (C) b1

2 - Paris
2 - Hong Kong

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (Route through for review)

RLS:frw/jen
(12)

157-2466

NOT RECORDED

DUPLICATE YELLOW

CLASS. & EXT. BY SPtrak 1/4/85
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4, 2, 1, 2, 3
DATE OF REVIEW 10-13-86

70 OCT 20 1966

TOP SECRET

Letter to London
Re: Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM)
100-442684

TOP SECRET

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

This matter should receive expeditious attention and the Bureau must be kept promptly advised of all pertinent developments.

NOTE: [redacted] (C)

b1

TOP SECRET

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 11/4/66

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ CONFIDENTIAL (Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (157-1465)

SUBJECT: COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR BLACK POWER (CCBP)
IS - MISCELLANEOUS

Re Chicago airtel and LHM dated 10/18/66, captioned as above; Chicago teletypes, above caption, dated 11/3/66, advising the Bureau of demonstrations to be held under the auspices of the CCBP and its contributing organizations, scheduled for November 4 and 5, 1966, in Chicago.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 15 copies of a LHM concerning captioned matter, copies being designated as indicated below for the information of interested offices. The character in the enclosed LHM is again being set forth as Racial Matter.

Details of meetings referred to in the enclosed are being channelized to appropriate files. Chicago will follow the demonstrations as set forth in the enclosed and the Bureau will be appropriately advised of results.

b1

(c) [redacted]

157-2466

(7) - Bureau (Encl. 15) (RM)
1 - 100-439190 (SNCC)
1 - 100-440855 (CORE)
1 - 100-441968 (ACT)
(1) - 157-2466 (DDJ)
1 - Atlanta (Encl. 1) (RM) (Info) (SNCC)
1 - New York (Encl. 1) (RM) (Info) (157

(copies continued in ii page)

CLASS. & EXT. BY
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2
DATE OF REVIEW

62 NOV 18 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

CG 157-1465

CONFIDENTIAL

1 - New Orleans (RM) (Enc. 1) (Info) (CORE)

9 - Chicago
(1 - 157-413)
([redacted] [redacted] b1 b7C
(1 - 157-)
(1 - 157-303) (ACT)
(1 - 100-40342) (SNCC)
(1 - 100-11329) (CORE)
(1 - 157-572) (DDJ)

JCS:gas

(19)

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

157-1465

Chicago, Illinois
November 4, 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR BLACK POWER (CCBP)
RACIAL MATTER

Reference is made to Chicago memorandum of October 18, 1966, under the above caption.

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

b1

[redacted] (C)

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2/5/80

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-2 TAP/JRM/CLM
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-3, 4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 11-4-86

Para C Allowed.

157-2466

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR BLACK POWER (CCBP)

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b1

[redacted] b1

The general feeling of this group is that the Negro should be urged to boycott the forthcoming elections as none of the candidates represent the interests of the Negro in the ghetto.

Plans have been made for leaflet distributions urging Negroes not to vote for this reason. The leaflet distribution to be principally confined to Chicago's west and south sides.

[redacted] b1

The general purpose of this so called Black Power Conference was an attempt to explain to those present the meaning of the term and Lucas, Sharp, and Landry were the principal speakers on this occasion. Generally they urged that the Negro should obtain control of and run his own neighborhoods as well as establish and operate his own political machines. Landry urged what he described as "street action" to accomplish this, feeling that those individuals in Negro neighborhoods who would not want to go along with this program should be terrorized into cooperating. He noted that this was

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR BLACK POWER (CCBP)

CONFIDENTIAL

the way both the Vice Lords and Blackstone Rangers operate. Landry also urged that Negroes be persuaded to boycott the November 8, 1966, elections as none of the candidates were acceptable to the Negro people. Lucas, in his remarks, however, urged that anyone who would desire to vote should vote Republican simply to "get rid of the (Mayor Richard J.) Daley machine."

[redacted] b1

This march is to commence approximately twelve noon on November 5, 1966, and will originate from 63rd and Cottage Grove Avenue, within the First District; however, the number of possible participants is not known.

[redacted] b1

This source also advised that at a CCBP meeting held November 3, 1966, it was decided that representatives of this group would conduct a protest demonstration at one p.m. on November 4, 1966 at the Congress Plaza, 400 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, and would be timed to coincide with the visit to Chicago of the President of the United States who would be in this vicinity at that time.

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR BLACK POWER (CCBP)

CONFIDENTIAL

This demonstration would be in protest of past jailings of civil rights leaders in Chicago and hopefully would be of some embarrassment to the national Democratic Administration and develop support for the planned boycott of the polls on November 8, 1966, which is being urged by representatives of the CCBP.

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (c) b1

[redacted] (c) b1

A characterization of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. is being attached hereto for information.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR BLACK POWER (CCBP)

Portions of the above information, as pertains to demonstration and possible violent type activity, was made available on November 3, 1966, to the following:

[redacted], Secret Service, Chicago

[redacted] Office of the United States Attorney, Chicago

[redacted], Region I, 113th MI Group, Evanston, Illinois

b7C

Copies of this memorandum are being made available to each of the above agencies.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

1

APPENDIX

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.,
aka Deacons for Defense and Justice,
Inc.

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) as on file with the Secretary of State, for the State of Louisiana, reflects that the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., is a Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The location and business office address of its registered office shall be Amos Service Station (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B. Jonesboro, Louisiana.

"This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes:

"To instruct, train, 'teach and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principles of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Louisiana, as well as the constitution and laws of any other state wherein this corporation may operate; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the use, value, and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen: to further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law.'"

CONFIDENTIAL

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
5010-107-5
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (100-442684 TOP SECRET)
157-2466)

DATE: 11-7-66

FROM : Legat, Paris (157-9) (P.)

SUBJECT: REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM)
IS - RAM

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. (DDJ)
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

ReBulets 10-13-66 and 11-3-66.

[redacted] b1

[redacted] b1

3 - Bureau
(1 - Liaison Section)
1 - London (sent direct) (Info.)
1 - Paris
NMP:HD
(5)

157-2466

NOT RECORDED
128 NOV 15 1966

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible] 7-25-80
REASON - FCIM II, 1-3 d, 1-3
DATE OF REVIEW 11-7-86

261

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Plan

NOV 17 1966

TOP SECRET

LEGAT, Hong Kong

TOP SECRET

11/3/66

Director, FBI (100-448256) (157-2466)

1 - Bashe
1 - Shackelford
1 - Foreign Liaison Uni

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM)
INTERNAL SECURITY - RAM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. (DDJ)
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

ReBulet 10/13/66, Hong Kong letter 10/20/66, and Bulet 10/12/66.(U)

[redacted] (C)

b1
b7C

[redacted] (S)

Washington Field should make available the results of the review of Passport Office records concerning [redacted]'s passport as soon as available.(U)

b7C

[redacted] (C)

b1
b7C

1 - London
1 - Paris
2 - New Orleans
1 - New York
2 - Washington Field

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP/SCM/ 1-25-86
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2, 1.2.3
DATE OF REVIEW 1-3-86

RLS:deh (15)

NOV 28 1966

SEE NOTE PAGE 2.

TOP SECRET

Letter to Hong Kong
Re: REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT
DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
(130134) (157-2466)

TOP SECRET

[redacted] (C)

b1

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

NOTE:

[redacted] (TS)

b1

TOP SECRET

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
5010-107-5

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 11/14/66

FROM : SAC, WFO

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
Racial Matters
(Bufile 157-2466)
(CG file 157-572)
(NO file 157-3290)
(WFO file 157-794) (P)

[redacted] b7C
Racial Matters
(Bufile 157-4946)
(CG file 157-840)
(NO file 157-5290)
(WFO file 157-801) (P)

Re WFO airtel dated 10/12/66.

As of 10/31/66 and 11/14/66, the Passport Office has not been able to locate a passport record concerning ERNEST THOMAS.

WFO will maintain contact with the Passport Office, which is continuing its search for the passport file on THOMAS.

3 - Bureau
3 - Chicago (RM)
3 - New Orleans (RM)
2 - WFO

HHK:dab
(11)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-25-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

157-2466-[illegible]

56 NOV 22 1966

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 11/9/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-5624)

RE: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, ~~FERRIDAY, LA.~~
RM

Re New Orleans airtel to Bureau, 10/31/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies of self-explanatory LHM concerning captioned matter.

Copies of this LHM are being furnished to Secret Service, ICG, and NISO, New Orleans, as well as OSI, Barksdale AFB, La. Copy also being furnished to USA, Shreveport, La.

3-Bureau (Encls. 11) (ENCLOSURE)
2-New Orleans

JAP/lrs
(5)

AGENCY: ACSI ONI, OSI, SEC, SSS; DEPT: ISD, CRD, RAO
DATE FORW: 11/15/66
HOW FORW: RCS
BY: _____

REC 13 157-2466-172

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-25-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

5 NOV 30 1966

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana
November 9, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

[redacted] advised that there are no Deacons for Defense and Justice in the Ferriday Negro community at this time.

[redacted] advised that he has heard of no Deacons for Defense and Justice being in the Ferriday area. b7C b7D

[redacted]

On November 5, 1966, [redacted] Ferriday, advised that about 25 Negroes, most of whom were teenagers, assembled on Louisiana Avenue, the main street, about 2:20 P.M., without having obtained a permit to march and dispersed almost immediately without any incident. He advised [redacted] police officers did not report seeing any of the group, which was led by Rudy Shields, armed in any way.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-25-80 BY SP1 Sen/pa

ENCLOSURE

Director, FBI (100-442634)(157-2463) SECRET 11/15/66

Legat, London (157-102)(P)

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM)
IS - RAM

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. (DDJ)
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (S)

b1

[redacted] (S)

Under no circumstances should the contents of this office be disseminated outside the Bureau.

[redacted] (C)

The Bureau will be kept advised.

4 - Bureau
1 - Paris (Encl. 1)
1 - Liaison (sent direct)
1 - London
LM:cm
(7)

157-2466

NOT RECORDED
170 NOV 22 1966

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 spl/fr 7-25-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2, 1.3
DATE OF REVIEW 11-15-86

NOV 22 1966

SECRET

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-61)

FBI

Date: 11/16/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka
Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc.
RM

Re New Orleans report of SA [redacted] b7C
dated 7/21/66.

Report in this matter is being prepared and will be submitted to the Bureau by 11/22/66.

The preparation of this report was delayed due to Agent to whom this matter assigned working bank robbery and civil rights specials.

3 - BUREAU
2 - NEW ORLEANS
ALS/dbb
(5)

INDEXED
REC-59 157-2964-173

(CC 92 v 941)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-25-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

2209

2NOV 28 1966

Approved: R & K [illegible] Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 18 1966
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Wick
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH/DC

FBI CINCINTI

301PM URGENT 11/18/66 MJV

TO DIRECTOR, CLEVELAND, NEW ORLEANS

FROM CINCINNATI 3P

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-25-80 BY SP1 gah/jw

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RM.

[redacted]

MEMBER OF DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA, PRESENTLY IN DAYTON, OHIO, ATTEMPTING TO RAISE MONEY FOR BLACK NATIONALIST GROUPS. [redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] ADVOCATES THE REVOLUTION AND FOLLOWS PHILOSOPHY OF RED CHINA. [redacted]

END PAGE OM

SEE FBI/S 1-2146-114

REC-8

NOV 22 1966

70 NOV 29 1966

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted] DISTPIBUTING CARDBOARD POSTERS DAYTON, OHIO, AREA WITH PICTURE OF UNCLE SAM, STATING QUOTE UNCLE SAME WANTS YOU NIGGER QUOTES CONTAINING STATEMENTS OPPOSING WAR IN VIETNAM AIMED AT NEGROES.

[redacted]

LOCAL AUTHORITES, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, AND SECRET SERVICE BEING ADVISED. LHM FOLLOWS.

NEW ORLEANS ADVISE CINCINNATI OF PERTINENT INFO RE BACKGROUND AND ACTIVITIES OF [redacted]

b7C

CLEVELAND ADVISE IF CLEVELAND AUTHORITIES INTERESTED IN [redacted]

AM COPY TO NEW YORK.

CV AND NO ADDV

END

RCS

FBI WASH DC

P

FD-36 (Rev. 12-64)

FBI

Date: 11-7-66

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (157-1465)

SUBJECT: COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR BLACK POWER (CCBP)
IS - MISCELLANEOUS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12-26-79 BY 2842

Re Chicago airtel and LHM captioned as above and dated 11/4/66; Chicago tels 11/4/66-11/7/66, captioned variously Picket Demonstrations, Auspices CCBP, November, 1966, RM, with additional captions of Youth Gang Conflict, Chicago, Illinois, RM; American Nazi Party, RM; Proposed Demonstration at Cook County, Illinois Jail by Oakland Committee for Community Improvement, 3939 South Drexel Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, November 8, 1966, and Unsubs; Alleged Threats Against Dick Gregory, Negro Entertainer, and Civil Rights Activist, and Bill Robinson, Acting Director, OCCI, Election Laws - Extortion.

10 - Bureau (Enc. 18)
(1 - 100-439190) (SNCC)
(1 - 100-440855) (CORE)
(1 - 100-441968) (ACT)
(1 - 157-2466) (DDJ)
(1 - 105-70374) (ANP)
(1 - 157-4253) [redacted] b7C
(1 - 157-) (OCCI)
ENCLOSURE 1 - Atlanta (Enc. 1) (RM) (INFO) (SNCC)
1 - New York (Enc. 1) (RM) (INFO) (CORE)
1 - New Orleans (Enc. 1) (RM) (INFO) (DDJ)
14 - Chicago
(1 - 157-413)
(1 - 100-40342) (SNCC)
(1 - 100-11329) (CORE)
(1 - 157-303) (ACT)
(1 - 157-572) (DDJ)
(1 - 157-3) (ANP)
(1 - 157-979) (OCCI)
(1 - 157-347) [redacted]
(1 - 100-34347)
(1 - 157-)
(1 - 157-)
(1 - 9-0)
(1 - 56-New)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

b7C CARBON COPY
157-2466
NOT RECORDED
DEC 21 1979

JCS:cnv
(27)

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

CG 157-1465

Enclosed for the Bureau are eighteen (18) copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning the above group, its activities and those related to it over the period 11/4-7/66.

Copies of this letterhead memorandum are designated as indicated to interested offices for information. The caption of the letterhead memorandum itself is being carried as Racial Matter rather than as Internal Security - Miscellaneous as this is deemed more appropriate to the nature of the activities as set forth.

Chicago is conducting no investigation concerning the threatening phone calls made to DICK GREGORY, from an extortion aspect, as the telephone calls to him and his associates were local in nature. A separate letterhead memorandum is being provided the Bureau under an appropriate caption pertaining to the threat against GREGORY and his associates under the caption Election Laws - Extortion.

The sources utilized in the enclosed are as follows:

[redacted] [redacted] b7C b7D

Chicago is continuing to follow the activities of the CCBP and those organizations and individuals active in this connection. The Bureau will be appropriately advised of subsequent developments.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

CG 157-1465

Chicago, Illinois
Nov. 4, 1966

COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)
RACIAL MATTER

Reference is made to Chicago memorandum of November 4, 1966, under the above caption setting forth in part plans of these groups and individuals composing the CCBP [illegible] organize [illegible] demonstration in Chicago, Illinois, on November [illegible], [illegible], and November 5, 1966. These militantly oriented civil rights groups which compose the CCBP include in part ACT, Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc. (DDJ), Oakland Committee for Community Improvement (OCCI), the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), as well as members of several Negro youth gangs in Chicago, these latter inclusive of such as the Blackstone Rangers and the Vicelords.

Referenced memorandum reflected that representatives of the CCBP had planned a picket demonstration at approximately 1:00 PM on November 4, 1966, [illegible] Chicago, this demonstration [illegible] Chicago of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

[redacted] b7D

This [illegible] contains [illegible] recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

12/20/79 2842

RE: COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)

[redacted]

b7D

[redacted] advised that as of 4:30 PM on November 4, 1966, there were no demonstrators then in the vicinity of Lake and Hamlin Avenues, however, additional police forces have been detailed to this area to insure that no problems arise in the event the demonstrators do appear.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] advised that the scheduled demonstration and march, above, did not begin until 7:15 PM on November 4, 1966. Only 17 demonstrators, all Negro, subsequently marched from the intersection of Lake and Hamlin through this and nearby neighborhoods, terminating their march at approximately 10:00 PM. These demonstrators were accompanied by approximately 50 Chicago police officers and there were no incidents, arrests or disorders at any time during the course of the affair.

[redacted] advised at approximately noon, November 5, 1966, that information had been received by [redacted]

RE: COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)

[redacted] that the West Side Chapter of ACT has laid plans for a march on this date to commence at approximately 4:00 PM. Those involved will originate their demonstration from ACT Headquarters, 413 East Oakwood Boulevard, Chicago, to the headquarters of the 13th Ward, Regular Democratic Party Organization, 6509 South Kedzie, Chicago. The stated reason for this march is to encourage a Negro boycott at the polls on the occasion of the elections to be held November 8, 1966. ACT is to be joined in this march by individuals representative of those other groups which comprise the CCBP, notably SNCC and CORE.

b7C
b7D

It will be recalled that referenced memorandum of November 4, 1966, also contained information to the effect that a march was to be held by CCBP forces on November 5, 1966, through the First Congressional District on Chicago's south side.

In connection with this demonstration, [redacted] advised that some 22 demonstrators led by Robert Lucas, Chicago CORE Chairman, marched for a short while early Saturday afternoon, November 5, 1966, from the area of 63rd and South Park Avenues, to the vicinity of 47th and South Park where the demonstration ended at approximately 3:00 PM. [redacted] advised that the marchers carried signs calling for the defeat of incumbent Congressman William L. Dawson, Chicago's First Congressional District, in protest of his past record in the civil rights area; [redacted] advised that the marchers did not reach Congressman Dawson's office as had been planned, apparently because of their fatigue. There were no incidents, arrests or disorders in connection with this march.

[redacted] advised at 5:00 PM on November 5, 1966, that the demonstration planned for this afternoon at 4:00 PM by the West Side Chapter of ACT had been canceled; [redacted] advised that [redacted] had advised that the demonstration instead would be held at 4:00 PM on November 6, 1966, with a march to begin from 413

RE: COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)

East Oakwood Boulevard, Chicago, ACT Headquarters, to the 13th Ward Democratic Headquarters at 6509 South Kedzie Avenue. The marchers additionally will proceed to the vicinity of 3900 West 63rd Street in this general area, this address the headquarters of the 13th Ward Republican Organization.

[redacted] stated that to the best of his information, this demonstration on November 5, 1966, had been canceled because most of the participants were to have been those who had taken part in a earlier march on this date on Chicago's south side and these individuals had apparently not physically been able to engage in another march on this date.

[redacted] advised on November 6, 1966, that the planned demonstration by ACT and associates of this organization before both the Democratic and Republican Party headquarters on Chicago's west side had not materialized. [redacted] had no information concerning the reason for the cancellation of this march other than the fact that insufficient support had been mobilized by those organizations who were interested in it to render it other than embarrassing.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] advised, however, that the Chicago Branch of the American Nazi Party had apparently learned of the comtemplated demonstrations to be held in this area on Chicago's south side and had scheduled a counter demonstration to take place in Marquette Park. The area where the ACT demonstrations were to have taken place is generally in the Gage Park and Chicago Lawn areas on Chicago's southwest side, the scene of serious disorders during the summer of 1966 on the occasion of civil rights marches through these all white residential neighborhoods.

Concerning the ANP activity in Marquette Park on this date, [redacted] advised that at approximately 4:30 PM, five individuals, all Caucasian, had been arrested in Marquette Park for distributing Nazi Party literature. [redacted]

RE: COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

Concerning these individuals, a second confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] are all known in the past to have been active in the Chicago Branch, ANP.

Records of the Chicago Office reflect no information identifiable with either [redacted] or [redacted].

At 6:00 PM, November 6, 1966, [redacted] advised that he had learned that Dick Gregory, Negro entertainer and civil rights activist, now in Chicago, was present at ACT Headquarters with seven eight other persons attempting to organize a march to or demonstration in the Cicero Park area near that evening. As of 6:45 PM, November 6, 1966, [redacted] advised that Gregory and this group were still at ACT Headquarters continuing to attempt to organize such a demonstration, however, there was no indication at that time when such activity would take place.

[redacted] advised the Chicago Office that Gregory and Lawrence Landry together with some 31 other individuals departed the ACT Headquarters at approximately 7:20 PM, en-route to 13th Ward Republican Headquarters, 5103 West 63rd Street. Upon arrival here this group demonstrated peacefully for approximately an hour, then proceeded to 13th Ward Democratic Headquarters, 6509 South Kedzie. Here the demonstrators became disorderly, noisy and rowdy, repeatedly shouting

RE: COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)

"Black Power", and the Chicago Police Department forces present on the scene arrested ten male and three female demonstrators on disorderly conduct charges. Among those arrested was [redacted] Gregory and Landry were not arrested as a result of this activity.

[redacted] advised that information subsequently received by [redacted] reflected that Gregory, subsequent to the demonstration on Chicago's southwest side, had stated that he might engage in an all-night vigil at Cook County Jail, Chicago, to protest the incarceration there of Frank Ditto, head of the OCCI. Ditto, a close associate of Gregory, is currently in jail for defiance of a local circuit court injunction restricting civil rights marches in Chicago, this injunction obtained in August, 1966, by Chicago city authorities. As of 10:00 PM, November 6, 1966, [redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] advised that there were no demonstrators in the vicinity of the jail at the present time. He advised that his information was now to the effect that the OCCI would conduct an all-night vigil at Cook County Jail, 26th and California, Chicago, to protest the incarceration of Ditto beginning at midnight, Monday, November 7, 1966, and concluding at 6:00 AM, November 8, 1966. [redacted] stated that according to [redacted] the size of the group participating in this all-night vigil will be within the limits of the law pertaining to such activity.

[redacted]

RE: COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)

[redacted]

b7C
b7I

[redacted] Both [redacted] and [redacted] familiar with these calls advised that they consider them local in nature.

RE: COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)

Pertinent portions of the above information were provided during the period November 4-7, 1968, to the following:

[redacted]
113th MI Group, Region I,
Evanston, Illinois

b7C

[redacted]
United States Secret Service,
Chicago, Illinois

[redacted]
United States Attorney's Office,
Chicago, Illinois

The DDJ and the ANP, national and local, will be characterzied on the attached appendix pages. The sources utilized in the ANP characterizations have furnished reliable information in the past.

Copies of this memorandum are being provided to United States Secret Service, Chicago, Office of the United States Attorney, Chicago, and Region I, 113th MI Group, Evanston, Illinois.

1

APPENDIX

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.,
aka Deacons for Defense and Justice,
Inc.

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) as on file with the Secretary of State, for the State of Louisiana, reflects that the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., is a Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The location and business office address of its registered office shall be Amos Service Station (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B. Jonesboro, Louisiana.

"This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes:

"To instruct, train, 'teach and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principles of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Louisiana, as well as the constitution and laws of any other state wherein this corporation may operate; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the use, value, and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen: to further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law.'"

1

APPENDIX

AMERICAN NAZI PARTY OF THE WORLD
UNION OF FREE ENTERPRISE NATIONAL
SOCIALISTS, ALSO KNOWN AS THE
GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL PARTY

In his book "This Time The World" copyrighted in 1961 GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL identified himself as Commander, American Nazi Party of the World Union of Free Enterprise National Socialists (ANP - WUFENS), Arlington, Virginia.

The April 4, 1963, issue of "The Richmond News Leader," a Richmond, Virginia, daily newspaper, reported that GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL had, on the previous day, again applied for the American Nazi Party to be chartered in the State of Virginia, but this request was turned down by the Virginia State Corporation Commission. This action was taken pursuant to an act of the 1962 Virginia Assembly which prohibits use of "Nazi" or "National Socialism" in a Virginia charter. This article further pointed out that ROCKWELL's Party is presently chartered in the State of Virginia as the George Lincoln Rockwell Party.

On August 14, 1964, a source advised that the ANP - WUFENS was organized by GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL at his residence in Arlington, Virginia on February 26, 1959 as an international "National Socialist" movement based on the German Nazi Party headed by ADOLF HITLER. He added that ROCKWELL is the dominant force and personality in this party, that he is espousing a "line" of hatred against the Jews and Negroes, and that he is seeking, through speeches, distribution of literature and picketing, to establish a cohesive and dominant political party in the United States and in foreign countries.

According to the "Stormtrooper's Manual," an official publication of the ANP, the phases of ANP struggle for power are fourfold, namely, first "to make ourselves known to the masses"; second, "the dissemination of our program and truth about the Party"; third, "organizing the people who have been converted to our propaganda"; and fourth, "the attainment of power through the votes of the newly-won masses."

On August 19, 1966, the source advised that GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL presently believes that he has completed the first two phases in his struggle for power and is still into the third stage, to wit, "the organizing of the people who have been converted to our propaganda." The source added that ROCKWELL had previously believed that he would be elected Governor of Virginia in November, 1965, and when defeated, he made the statement that he was not ready for stage four.

1

APPENDIX

AMERICAN NAZI PARTY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

A source advised on November 14, 1960, that on that date a meeting was held in Chicago, Illinois, for the purpose of organizing a Chicago Unit of the American Nazi Party (ANP) which maintains headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL, National Commander, ANP, took charge of this meeting.

On May 22, 1962, [redacted] ANP, Chicago, advised that the ANP in Chicago is to a degree autonomous although it remains subject to the final authority of GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL and ANP National Headquarters. b7C b7D

A second source advised on August 17, 1966, that the Chicago branch of the ANP is currently located at 1314 West Ohio Street, Chicago, Illinois.

FBI WASH DC

DELETY

FBI CLEVELAND

1850 PM 11-18-66 URGENT HAL

TO DIRECTOR AND CINCINNATI

FROM CLEVELAND (157-490)

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RM.

RE CI TEL NOVEMBER EIGHTEEN INSTANT.

[redacted]

[redacted] ADVISED NOVEMBER EIGHTEEN THAT HENRY AUSTAN MADE PUBLIC APPEARANCES IN CLEVELAND DURING PAST FEW WEEKS.

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted] THEREFORE LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE NO INTEREST IN [redacted] AT THIS TIME.

EX-112 REC 37 157-3460-175

[redacted]

NOV 22 1966

[redacted]

END

MA

BY WASH DEC 6 1966

U CLR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-25-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Wick
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FD-263 (ev. 9-17-65)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TOP SECRET

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	11/22/66	6/24/66 - 11/3/66

TITLE OF CASE

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc.

REPORT MADE BY

SA [redacted] b7C

CHARACTER OF CASE

RM

REFERENCE:

New Orleans report of SA [redacted] dated 7/21/66. b7C

- P -

LEADS:

BOSTON DIVISION

AT BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Will advise if information received indicating DDJ has formed chapter in Boston.

CHICAGO DIVISION

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Will contact Passport Office, U. S. Department of State.

Case has been: Pending over one year ☐ Yes ☐ No; Pending prosecution over six months ☐ Yes ☐

APPROVED | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

157-2466-110

7 - BUREAU (157-2466) (RM)
5 - NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

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Dissemination Record of Attached Report				Notations
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 FN 147-25 50
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-8
DATE OF REVIEW 11-22-86

FEB 6 1967

TOP SECRET

NO 157-3290
ALS/dbb

TOP SECRET

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2 - CHICAGO (157-572) (RM)
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2 - JACKSON (157-5294) (RM)
4 - NEW YORK (2: 157-1542)(1: 157-927)
(1: 157-1696) (RM)
2 - SAN DIEGO (RM)
2 - WFO (1: 157-974) (1: 157-801) (RM)
1 MIG, NEW ORLEANS (RM)
1 - SECRET SERVICE, NEW ORLEANS (RM)

LEADS: (continued)

to determine if record for Passport Number [redacted] b7C
issued to EARNEST THOMAS on 7/13/66, has been located. If so, cover lead set out for WFO.

Will maintain contact with sources having knowledge of activities of DDJ for current information on this organization.

CLEVELAND DIVISION

AT CLEVELAND, OHIO

Will maintain contact with informants in an effort to determine if there is any additional activity concerning the DDJ.

JACKSON DIVISION

AT [redacted], MISSISSIPPI

Will determine disposition of charges against [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] b7C
[redacted] in connection with arrest of these individuals on 8/22/66.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

LEADS: (continued)

Consider interviewing these individuals and other members of DDJ [redacted] b7C b7D to develop information regarding this chapter of DDJ.

NEW YORK DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

[redacted] b1 (C)

SAN DIEGO DIVISION

AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Maintain contact with informants in an effort to determine if there is any additional activity concerning the DDJ.

WASHINGTON FIELD

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will check records, Passport Office, U. S. Department of State, for Passport Number [redacted], issued to EARNEST THOMAS, 7/13/66, at Chicago, Illinois. Obtain background information and photograph from records. Set forth in LHM suitable for dissemination. b7C

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

Will contact sources to determine itinerary and purpose of trip made by ERNEST THOMAS to Europe, and

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LEADS: (continued)

possibly Cuba and Red China beginning 7/15/66, for approximately one month duration.

[redacted] b7C

Determine if THOMAS has recently traveled to New York.

Develop sources to have knowledge of activities of THOMAS for advance knowledge of his activities.

AT BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with [redacted] b7C b7D Bogalusa Chapter, DDJ, for activities of this organization.

AT HOMER, LOUISIANA

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AT MINDEN, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with sources having knowledge of activities of DDJ.

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ADMINISTRATIVE

The investigative period of this report preceeds the date of last report to include information received subsequent to referenced report.

[redacted]

b7C

[redacted] Inquiry by the Postal Inspector's Office revealed that no mail or correspondence concerning the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., has been received at that box to date.

[redacted]

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ADMINISTRATIVE: (continued)

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All pertinent information regarding activities of the Deacons for Defense and Justice (DDJ) was furnished to local authorities immediately upon receipt.

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FD-204 (Rev. 8-8-62)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Copy to: 1: MIG, NEW ORLEANS (REGISTERED MAIL)
1: SECRET SERVICE, NEW ORLEANS (REGISTERED MAIL)

Report of: SA [redacted] b7C Office: NEW ORLEANS
Date: 11/22/66

Field Office File No.: NO. 157-3290 Bureau File No.: 157-2466

Title: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

Character: RACIAL MATTERS

Synopsis:

Several admitted officials of Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. (DDJ) attended and spoke before meeting of Socialists Workers Party (SWP), Cleveland Committee to End War in Vietnam and Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM) explaining activities and purposes of DDJ. HENRY AUSTIN stated "When the Negro does come out of the ghettos, America will need the National Guard for protection." AUSTIN stated "This society needs a socialistic change." ERNEST THOMAS observed in march from Memphis, Tenn., to Jackson, Miss., acting as head of DDJ providing protection for members of march. THOMAS traveled through several northern states organizing DDJ chapters. THOMAS reportedly left Chicago, Ill., 7/15/66, to spend month in Europe to secure finances for DDJ. Passport # [redacted] issued to EARNEST THOMAS on 7/13/66, at Chicago, Illinois. THOMAS observed in Jonesboro, Louisiana, 9/25/66. ROYAN BURIS was elected President of Bogalusa, La., chapter of DDJ in place of CHARLES SIMS. b7C

- P -

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DETAILS:

Characterizations of organizations mentioned herein are a part of the appendix section of this report.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. (DDJ)
ASSOCIATION WITH SUBVERSIVE GROUPS

[redacted] (c) b1

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] that on (c) October 23, 1966, the Socialist Workers Party held an open forum at 9801 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

HENRY AUSTIN opened the meeting by saying if there are any FBI agents present I want to bid them good evening as they have been following me around lately.

America better change this society. America is just playing games here and over in Vietnam. For example the riots in the Hough area were not race riots, but riots of violence. I will give it another year and the riots will not be just in the ghetto's but outside as well.

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The purpose of the Deacons for Defense is to protect the Negro from the Ku Klux Klan and from police brutality. The Deacons for Defense is blazing a trail for justice. Down south when the police send in the Ku Klux Klan to settle an incident, and when the Deacons for Defense show up, it is so quiet you can hear two cotton balls being rubbed together.

We have been under white power for 400 years and we are tired of it. One of these days we will be under black power. When the Negro does come out of the ghetto's, America will need the National Guard for protection. We don't want civil rights or voting rights now. It is out of the question at this time.

Urban renewal post signs in empty lots which stand for years and still they don't do any rebuilding. They better start building better houses and better recreation centers for the Negroes. ROD HOLT asked "do you think the promises made to the Negroes will ever be full filled?" No, by the looks of things nothing will ever be done. This society needs a socialistic change.

[redacted] that on (2) bl

October 25, 1966, Committee meeting to End the War in Vietnam was held at 1846 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio. At this meeting HENRY AUSTIN, a Negro, was present and gave a talk on the Deacons for Defense and "from the ghettos." He said that the Deacons organization composed of only Negroes because they to feel that they are doing something without the help of the white man. He, himself, does not belong to the Deacons at the present time.

[redacted] that on (2) bl

October 23, 1966, at a meeting held for the Socialist Workers Party, 9801 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio HENRY AUSTAN, who is a member of the organization known as the Deacons for Defense, from Bogalusa, Louisiana, spoke. He said very little, explaining the purpose o.

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the Deacons for Defense. He said the organization is for defensive purposes only to protect peaceful Negroes when the police refuse to do so. He said the FBI have been following him daily since he has been in Cleveland. AUSTAN said, "If there are any present I hope when the report what I say, they will report only what I say and the way I say it." During the question period one person asked how many members the Deacons have and how many branches. HENRY AUSTAN answered, "that is what the FBI would like to know." Also the Ku Klux Klan. It is funny, but the FBI seems to get a lot of information from the Klans." AUSTAN said, "For that reason, we have to keep most of our activities classified."

A collection was taken up to help in the defense of HENRY AUSTAN. It was announced that $50.00 was collected. Someone asked AUSTAN just what is he being charged with. He said, "I am charged with many things and can get up to 14 years." There were a number of young people present [redacted] (C) b1 b7D

[redacted] Most of them are regulars of the forum.

[redacted] a regular weekly forum known as the (C) b1
"The Cleveland Militant Forum" and sponsored by the Cleveland branch of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) was held at 9811 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. Present at the forum were interested people. [illegible] AUSTIN was the main speaker for the forum and began by saying he had been [illegible] by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and that if there were any FBI agents present they were not to take everything he says literally.

AUSTIN only spoke for twenty minutes. He told of the events in Bogalusa, Louisiana, and of the participation of the Deacons for Defense, (the organization which HENRY AUSTIN represents) in the [illegible]

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marches HENRY AUSTIN said that the Deacons do advocate self defense in cases of harassement of the Negro, either by arms or any other weapon. He said that the Deacons for Defense, (DDJ) are not always violent and that they were the first to collect food and clothing and distribute it in New Orleans after the hurricane "betsy."

[redacted] b1

(c)

There was a short question and answer period. During that time AUSTIN stated that the Negro will never gain civil rights under the present system of Government in the United States but he also would not commit himself and say which type of Government is needed.

ACTIVITIES AND STATEMENTS OF ERNEST THOMAS

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ERNEST THOMAS has an office in Chicago, Illinois, and it is at 1236 Pulaski Street, Chicago, Illinois.

[redacted]

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On July 2, 1966, [redacted] b7D advised that ERNEST THOMAS was in Baltimore accompanied by CHARLES SIMS and that they were staying at [redacted] b7C

[redacted] that ERNEST THOMAS, Regional Vice President and Northern Director of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) is scheduled to give a speech in Grambling, Louisiana, at 8:00 PM on June 29, 1966. This speech will be open to the public and THOMAS will speak in front of the Post Office in Grambling. (c) b1

[redacted] (c) b1

The Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) is an organization set up in Jonesboro, Louisiana, during late 1964. It was incorporated in the State of Louisiana in March of 1965. The purpose of the organization was to provide protection for the Negro people of Jonesboro, and particularly those people participating in civil rights activities in Jonesboro. The original idea for forming this organization was developed when it was believed that some of the members of the Jonesboro police force were members of the Klan in that area and it was felt that these police officers could not be relied upon to provide the necessary protection for the Negro citizens of the community. At that time the DDJ was formed and incorporated.

Originally, PERCY BRADFORD was president, ERNEST THOMAS was vice-president, F. D. KIRKPATRICK was secretary, and HENRY AMOS was sergeant-at-arms. Later, ERNEST THOMAS was dropped as vice-president. When F. D. KIRKPATRICK moved from Jonesboro, Louisiana, to Grambling, Louisiana, he was replaced as secretary of the organization. The

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organization was set up strictly as a defensive organization and was established along non-violent lines. Chapters were soon set up in Bogalusa, Minden, Homer, and Ferriday, Louisiana. Shortly after the chapter was set up in Bogalusa, Louisiana, the organization board began having trouble with CHARLIE SIMS, the president of that chapter. SIMS was adopting a more militant attitude than that desired by the board and there was a split between the group in Jonesboro and that in Bogalusa. At the present time, tension still exists between these groups.

When KIRKPATRICK moved to Grambling, Louisiana, he was instrumental in setting up a chapter of the DDJ in the community. The group has never been cleared with the headquarters in Jonesboro, and it appears that it is almost dissolved at the present time. It was originally made up of faculty members and students of Grambling College and with the end of the past semester most of the members left Grambling and the chapter.

The DDJ is incorporated in the State of Louisiana only, and has not filed papers to do business in any other state. For this reason, the DDJ has no chapters outside of the State of Louisiana. ERNEST THOMAS has been traveling around the United States calling himself the Regional Vice-President and Northern Director of the DDJ. He has claimed to have set up DDJ chapters in several cities in the United States and has supposedly set these chapters up on a militant basis. These efforts on the part of ERNEST THOMAS are reportedly entirely on his own and are not supported or condoned by the DDJ of Jonesboro. It is believed that ERNEST THOMAS has adopted his title because of his former position in the DDJ in Jonesboro, but that all of his activities are strictly on his own behalf. The DDJ headquarters in Jonesboro has reportedly never received any requests for charters from anywhere outside of the state of Louisiana, and they could not

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issue charters outside of the state if they were so requested.

ERNEST THOMAS is believed to have DDJ chapters in Los Angeles, California; Chicago, Illinois; Detroit, Michigan; Washington, D.C.; and in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It is not known where he receives his financial support or backing in his organizational activities. He reportedly has been in touch with ELIJAH MUHAMMAD but will not join the Black Muslim movement because he could not retain his leadership role. It is believed that THOMAS is attempting to set up an organization paralleling the Black Muslims, but one in which he is the national leader.

[redacted]

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It is known that ERNEST THOMAS has the nickname of CHILLY WILLIE.

It was determined that THOMAS did not leave the march on Wednesday, June 22, 1966, as there had been trouble in Canton, Mississippi, and he did not want to leave at that time.

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[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

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THOMAS is attempting to organize the DDJ in the Chicago, Illinois, area. He is in a constant travel status, but maintains his family and permanent residence in Louisiana.

[redacted] (C)

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[redacted] b1

The national headquarters of the DDJ is at Jonesboro, Louisiana, where the organization is incorporated. ERNEST THOMAS has had difficulties with the national officers and they have little or no control over his activities. The parent organization is not in agreement with many of THOMAS' statements and activities.

[redacted] b1

On August 19, 1966, IC [redacted] b7C ascertained at the Passport Office, United States Department of State, Washington, D.C., that there was no record identifiable with ERNEST THOMAS.

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Passport Office suggested records of Passport Office, United States Department of State in Chicago be checked for current information. Possibility exists information may not have been transmitted to Passport Office, Washington, D.C.

[redacted] Passport Office, United States Department of State, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, advised SA [redacted] on September 12, 1966, that passport number [redacted] was issued and picked up at Chicago, Illinois, on July 13, 1966, by one EARNEST THOMAS. No address was listed by THOMAS. [redacted] b7C

[redacted] said THOMAS' passport file had been forwarded to the Department of State, Washington, D.C.

[redacted] b1

On September 26, 1966 [redacted] Jonesboro, Louisiana, advised that EARNEST THOMAS was observed in Jonesboro, September 25, 1966. [redacted] advised that he did not know the exact date of THOMAS' arrival at Jonesboro. b7C b7D

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As of October 7, 1966, the Passport Office has not been able to locate a record reflecting issuance of a passport to ERNEST THOMAS.

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ACTIVITIES OF KNOWN OR ALLEGED CHAPTERS OF THE DDJ

BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA CHAPTER

[redacted] Bogalusa, Louisiana, Chapter [redacted]

[redacted] advised that on Sunday July 24, 1966, a meeting of the Bogalusa Chapter of the DDJ was held and new officers were elected. [redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted] further advised that the reason an election was held was because the majority of the Deacon membership felt that the policies of former President CHARLES SIMS were not satisfactory and did not bring about the desired results. He stated that the Deacons major objection was that although CHARLES SIMS gave people the impression that he was a militant individual, the membership was dissatisfied with the fact that CHARLES SIMS never backed up his threats with actions.

[redacted] added that at the meeting it was decided that henceforth any anti-Negro actions by whites in the Bogalusa and Franklinton, Louisiana, areas will be countered with militant actions. He explained that by this he meant that the Deacons will now react violently if necessary.

Regarding activities that the Deacons will participate in, [redacted] stated that the Deacons will now begin taking active part in picketing and testing.

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[redacted] stated that additional marches are being planned at this time, and that included a possible march to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and an additional march to Franklinton, Louisiana. He was unable to state specifically what their grievances were but added that it is just a culmination of general mistreatment of Negroes. No dates have been set for above-planned marches.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

CHARLES SIMS, President, Deacons of Defense and Justice, left Bogalusa, Louisiana, on July 4, 1966, en route to Boston, Massachusetts. SIMS accompanied by (first name unknown) [redacted]

[redacted] purpose of trip is to assist local Boston Chapter of Deacons in reinforcing the organization.

SIMS' specific plans are unknown [redacted]

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, CHAPTER

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On Friday night, July 29, 1966, Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING spoke at a civil rights meeting near 71st and South Halsted, Chicago. Approximately 40 Negro males, who indicated they were members of the DDJ, stayed outside and were in the area to reportedly protect the person of Dr. KING and other civil rights leaders. They reportedly carried firearms.

On the same night, July 29, 1966, STOKELY CARMICHAEL, head of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), spoke to a group of the Packinghouse labor union on the south side of Chicago. Approximately 40 alleged members of the DDJ were also in this area to provide protection. They were also reportedly armed. The Deacons do not take an active part as such at meetings but are merely in the area to provide protection.

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The DDJ at Chicago has no arms arsenal and what weapons are available are owned personally by individual members.

True members of the DDJ are issued membership cards. Members are being recruited at Chicago at $25 per head.

The membership of the DDJ at Chicago is not known. However, active membership or indicated active membership can be estimated at around 80 Negro males.

The DDJ did not participate as an organization in the ill-fated civil rights demonstration for open occupancy in the Gage Park--Marquette Park area of Chicago on July 31, 1966, in which racial violence broke out. One or two DDJ members were observed in the area of the demonstration but they were there as individuals.

[redacted] b1

[redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] advised that the local chapter of the DDJ plan a march at 3:00 p.m., August 21, 1966, in the Gage Park area for their march. [redacted] would not furnish [redacted] with information as to where the group intended to park their vehicles or the line of march. [redacted] did state the group plans to march North from 59th and Western to 55th Street, but he would furnish no additional details and was very vague.

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On August 21, 1966, [redacted] and [redacted], both advised that the scheduled DDJ march into the Gage Park area had been cancelled, and that the group had pulled out of their anticipated march.

[redacted]

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MINDEN, LOUISIANA, CHAPTER 20

[redacted] advised [redacted] b7C b7D

There was no violence discussed and the meeting was just a discussion of the racial situation at Minden. The Deacons do not want any firearms and there is no reason to think there will be any trouble at Minden, Louisiana.

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[redacted] There was no talk of any violence and no trouble is expected.

[redacted]

[redacted] the racial situation is very quiet. [redacted]

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The Deacons in Minden, still do not own any weapons and no violence of any kind was discussed or is expected.

[redacted] said the group still has not purchased any weapons and no violence is expected.

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CLEVELAND, OHIO, CHAPTER

On June 20, 1966, [redacted] b7C b7D
[redacted] advised that [redacted] has no information indicating that the DDJ is either functioning or holding regular meetings in Cleveland, Ohio.

[redacted] that he(c) had no knowledge of DDJ meetings in Cleveland, Ohio. b1

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, CHAPTER

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that no article appeared in either the September 22, 1966, issue of "The Voice" or the September 22, 1966, issue of "The Light House," and that indications are that neither of these newspapers wanted to risk printing such an article concerning the Deacons, who are regarded as a militant group among the Negro organizations. [redacted] was unable to find any evidence that the Deacons are currently organized in San Diego at this time.

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APPENDIX

DEACONS OF DEFNESE AND JUSTICE, INC.

On June 16, 1966, a confidential source advised that The Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) is an organization set up in Jonesboro, Louisiana, during late 1964. It was incorporated in the State of Louisiana in March of 1965. The purpose of the organization was to provide protection for the Negro people of Jonesboro, and particularly those people participating in civil rights activities in Jonesboro. The original idea for forming this organization was developed when it was believed that some of the members of the Jonesboro police force were members of the Klan in that area and it was felt that these police officers could not be relied upon to provide the necessary protection for the Negro citizens of the community. At that time the DDJ was formed and incorporated.

The DDJ is incorporated in the State of Louisiana only, and had not filed papers to do business in any other state.

ERNEST THOMAS has been traveling around the United States calling himself the Regional Vice-President and Northern Director of the DDJ. He has claimed to have set up DDJ chapters in several cities in the United States and has supposedly set these chapters up on a militant basis. These efforts on the part of ERNEST THOMAS are reportedly entirely on his own and are not supported or condoned by the DDJ of Jonesboro. It is believed that ERNEST THOMAS has adopted his title because of his former position in the DDJ in Jonesboro, but that all of his activities are strictly on his own behalf. The DDJ headquarters in Jonesboro has reportedly never received any requests for charters from anywhere outside of the State of Louisiana and they could not issue charters outside of the state if they were so requested.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

1

A P P E N D I X

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY -
NEW YORK LOCAL

A source stated on August 25, 1960, that the New York Local (NYL) of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) was founded during 1938 in New York City.

A second confidential source stated on April 8, 1964, that the NYL was affiliated with and followed the aims and purposes of the National SWP.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

A P P E N D I X

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

APPENDIX

1

NATION OF ISLAM

In January, 1957, a source advised that Elijah Muhammad has described his organization on a nationwide basis as the "Nation of Islam" and "Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

On April 29, 1966, a second source advised that, Elijah Muhammad is the national leader of the Nation of Islam (NOI); Muhammad's Temple of Islam No. 2, 5335 South Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, is the national headquarters of the NOI; and in mid-1960 Muhammad and other NOI officials, when referring to Muhammad's organization on a nationwide basis, commenced using either "Mosque" or "Temple" when mentioning one of "Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

The NOI is an all-Negro organization which was originally organized in 1930 in Detroit, Michigan. Muhammad claims to have been selected by Allah, the Supreme Being, to lead the so-called Negro race out of slavery in the wilderness of North America by establishing an independent black nation in the United States. Members following Muhammad's teachings and his interpretation of the "Koran" believe there is no such thing as a Negro; that the so-called Negroes are slaves of the white race, referred to as "white devils," in the United States; and that the white race, because of its exploitation of the so-called Negroes, must and will be destroyed in the approaching "War of Armageddon."

In the past, officials and members of the NOI, including Muhammad, have refused to register under the provisions of the Selective Service Acts and have declared that members owe no allegiance to the United States.

APPENDIX

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NATION OF ISLAM

On May 5, 1958, the first source advised that Muhammad had, upon advice of legal counsel, tempered his personal statements and instructions to his ministers concerning the principles of his organization in order to avoid possible prosecution by the United States Government; however, he did not indicate any fundamental changes in the teachings of his organization.

On May 2, 1966, a third source advised that Muhammad had, early in July, 1958, decided to de-emphasize the religious aspects of the teachings of Islam and to stress the economic benefits to be derived by those Negroes who joined the NOI. This policy change, according to Muhammad, would help him acquire additional followers and create more interest in his programs.

CONFIDENTIAL

FD-323 (Rev. 11-29-61)

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
New Orleans, Louisiana
November 22, 1966

Title DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

Character RACIAL MATTERS

Reference REPORT OF SA [redacted] b7C
AT NEW ORLEANS, DATED AND CAPTIONED
AS ABOVE.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

[redacted] b1

35

CONFIDENTIAL

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

[illegible], [illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL

11/30/66

SAC, NEW YORK

INFORMATIVE

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT
(RAM)
IS-RAM
(OO:NY)
(Bufile: 100-442684)
(NOfile: 100-16890)
(NYfile: 157-927) (P)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
(DDJ)
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)
(OO:NO)
(Bufile: 157-2466)
(NOfile: 157-3290)
(NYfile: 157-1542) (RUC)

Re Bureau airtel to New Orleans dated 6/28/66, captioned "DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. - RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)," and Bulet to [illegible] dated 10/1 /66, captioned as above.

The following informants familiar with racial matters in NYC were contacted during the month of [illegible], 1966 for any information concerning the foreign travel of [illegible] FROMAN during the summer of 1966 and any contact by T40 [illegible] with RAM members since his return with negative results:

[redacted] b1

(C)

3-Bureau (RM)
(1-100-442684)
(1-157-2466)
3-New Orleans (RM)
(1-157-3290)
(1-100-16890) (RAM)
(1-157-5290) ([redacted]) b7C
1-New York (157-927) (RAM) 943)
1-New York (157-1542) (DDJ) (43)
1-New York (157-1655) [redacted] (43)

CONFIDENTIAL

157-2466-

NOT RECORDED
172 DEC 5 [illegible]

770

CLASS. & EXT. BY [illegible] 7-25-80
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2, 4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 11-30-86

RAJ:lam
(9)

OFFICIAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: November 21, 196

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM : LEGAT, MEXICO CITY

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RM (ORGANIZATION)
Bufile 157-2466
CG file 157-572
NO file 157-3290
NY file 157-
WFO file 157-794
MC file 157-3 (RUC)

ERNEST THOMAS, aka
RM
Bufile 157-4946
CG file 157-840
NO file 157-
NY file 157-
WFO file 157-801
MC file 105-5538 (RUC)

01-CG-11/29
Airtel
12/1 - 2m

8/100-180

1b - 2 (info)
NO - 4 (action)
NY - 2 (info)
WFO - 3 (action)

ENCLOSURES

Enclosed are 28 copies of a letterhead memorandum dated and captioned as above.

REFERENCES

Mexico City letter to Bureau dated 9/28/66,
[redacted] (c) b1

Chicago airtel to Bureau dated 7/19/66,
dual caption as above

ADMINISTRATIVE

Sufficient copies of the letterhead memorandum are enclosed for possible dissemination to the Secret Service and Legat, Paris.

[redacted] (c) b1

15 - Bureau (Encl. 28)
(1 - Liaison Section)
(2 - Chicago, Info)
(4 - New Orleans)
(2 - New York, Info)
(3 - Washington Field)
1 - Mexico City
RJG:gmh (17)

REC 22 157-2466-

DEC 2 1966

62 DEC 3 1966

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 2LF 7-2-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2 2.3
DATE OF REVIEW 11-21-80

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] (c) b1

SOURCES

[redacted] (c) b1

CLASSIFICATION

[redacted] (c) b1

LEADS

CHICAGO OFFICE (INFORMATION)

Information copies are being furnished to Chicago as it has conducted investigation in the past.

NEW ORLEANS OFFICE

Copies are being furnished to New Orleans as it is domestic office of origin in both cases.

NEW YORK OFFICE (INFORMATION)

Information copies are being furnished to New York as it has conducted investigation in the past.

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

Will review the file of ERNEST THOMAS, United States passport #[redacted] at the United States Passport Office to determine if he had received proper authority to travel to Cuba. b7C

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

November 21, 1966

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

[redacted] b7C

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

[redacted] b1 b7C

(C)

[redacted]

(C)

[redacted]

(C)

CONFIDENTIAL

157-2416-177

Group I
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 2L1 2L1 7.25-86
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2, 4.2 2.3
DATE OF REVIEW 11-21-86

INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED

[redacted] b7C

[redacted] b1 b7C

CONFIDENTIAL

36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

CONFIDENTIAL 11-22-66

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (157-1465)

SUBJECT: CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)
IS - MISCELLANEOUS
RACIAL MATTERS
Re Chicago teletypes 11/18 - 19/66;
Chicago airtel and letterhead memorandum (LHM) 11/14/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 15 copies of an LHM concerning captioned matter. Copies are being designated as indicated for Atlanta, New Orleans, and New York for information.

[redacted] (C) b1

Copies of this LHM are being provided to the United States Attorney, Secret Service and the military locally.

6 - Bureau (Enc. 15) (RM)
(1 - 100-441968) (ACT)
(1 - 100-440855) (CORE)
(1 - 100-439190)
(1 - 157-2466) (DDJ)
1 - Atlanta (Enc. 1) (SNCC) (INFO) (RM)
1 - New Orleans (Enc. 1) (DDJ) (INFO) (RM)
1 - New York (Enc. 1) (CORE) (INFO) (RM)
8 - Chicago
(1 - 157-413)
(1 - 100-41635) [redacted] b7C
(1 - 157-303) (ACT)
(1 - 100-40342) (SNCC)
(1 - 100-11324) (CORE)
(1 - 157-572) (DDJ)
[redacted] (C) b1

ENCLOSURE

157-2466 -

NOT RECORDED
ISSUED 3 1966

JCS:cms
(18)

CARBON COPY

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4, 2
DATE OF REVIEW [illegible]

56 DEC 21 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

CG 157-1465

Chicago will continue to follow and any pertinent information concerning captioned group and those organizations affiliated with it will be appropriately furnished.

The character of the enclosed is being carried as Racial Matters as it is deemed more appropriate to the nature of the information set forth.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

157-1465

Chicago, Illinois
November 21, 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL, INC.
BLACK POWER
RACIAL MATTERS

Reference is made to Chicago [illegible] of November 14, 1966, under the above caption.

[redacted] (C)

b1

The CCBP, using the name Negro Youth Alliance (LYA) for this activity, has distributed leaflets on Chicago's West Side, calling for the boycott alleging that this store, the Chase Department Mart, is one of many which takes money from the Negro Community with little or no return. The CCBP is hopeful of reducing business at this store to the point where it will be forced to close, thus demonstrating the economic power of the Negro to other white operated businesses in Negro communities.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP/GL 1/7 7.2550
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-20 4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 11-21-86

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

Re: CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)

In connection with the planned picketing demonstration on November 18, 1966, [redacted] b7C b7D advised as follows:

Four Negro males appeared at the Clark Super Mart at 5:45 p.m. on this date for picketing and boycott purposes. The owner of the super mart, [redacted] invited these individuals into b7C the store for inspection of the premises and a discussion of prices, wages and purchasing practices. At 6:40 p.m., five more Negro pickets arrived, inspected the store, engaged in discussion with the others there and at 7:05 p.m. all left the area. The pickets indicated that their future boycott plans were uncertain and appeared impressed with the operation of the store. They did not carry signs, were orderly, and actually did not engage in a demonstration as such. There were no arrests or incidents in connection with this matter.

The following listed individuals were furnished pertinent portions of the above information on November 18, 1966:

[redacted]
Secret Service, Chicago;

[redacted] b7C
Region I, 113th MI Group,
Evanston, Illinois;

[redacted]
Office of the United States Attorney,
Chicago.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Re: CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)

Further, in connection, with the planned demonstration of November 18, 1966, the following is set forth as provided by the above confidential source, on November 21, 1966:

The entire picketing demonstration to have been held on, November 18, 1966, at the Clark Super Mart was characterized by disorganization and lack of preparation. Among those individuals who reportedly appeared for the demonstration were representatives of ACT, a militant civil rights organization active on Chicago's West Side, as well as an individual known to be the local Chicago leader of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, Chicago. ACT, along with the Student Non-Violent Co-Ordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) are the chief participants in the CCBP.

The manager of this business establishment, in conversation with those who had appeared for the demonstration, readily agreed to their demands, these demands made initially upon their arrival. The demands principally amounted to a minimum wage of $2.00 for employees of the store and the utilization of Negro produce suppliers. When he agreed to these demands, those who had appeared for the demonstration were completely taken aback and were unable to supply him with the names of any Negro business firms with whom he should deal. The demonstrators retreated in apparent confusion and it is not anticipated that future demonstrations will be forthcoming here. Some subsequent discussion was overheard among ACT members that possibly they themselves might attempt to organize a produce dealership of their own to capitalize upon the fact that this individual and possibly others might very well prove agreeable to such demands made in the future.

CONFIDENTIAL

Re: CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)

In connection with CCBP activities in general, an article appeared in the November 18, 1966, issue of "Muhammad Speaks", self-identified as a publication of Muhammad's Mosque Number Two, [illegible] East 79th Street, Chicago, Illinois. The article was set forth under the caption "Planned Boycott of Retail Grocers Who Refuse to Buy From Black Wholesalers." The article in general consisted of an interview with Monroe Sharp, identified as the Chicago Chairman of SNCC. It was stated that members of three Chicago civil rights groups have formed a coalition to back Negro produce distributors in an effort to acquire exclusive sales in predominently black communities. Sharp was quoted as stating, "We're prepared to lead stringent boycotts of any retail grocery actually in Negro communities which refuse to purchase from black distributors. It is time black people started reaping the benefits of black-operated economy. We not only plan to move in the area of produce, but eventually in insurance, dairy products, laundries, liquor, hotel and gas, electricity and every other area where whites are taking money out of black neighborhoods. Businesses without Negro competitors will be urged to hire black salesmen, truck drivers, collectors, office personnel, etc."

The article identified those other civil rights organizations involved in this coalition, with SNCC, as CORE and ACT. Sharp stated that the success of this venture should demolish the myth that black people can not act together toward constructive ends. He described this as one of the most constructive moves black people have ever made, hoping that a precedent will be established which would spread throughout the country. Sharp described the main problem of the Negro Community as economic, not so much political or social. Sharp stated, " When we

Re: CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)

start channelizing our resources back into the black community, money, jobs and ultimately real black power will follow. From this will come political and social gains. This could well be the turning point of the black revolution and we are determined to put everything we have into it."

Copies of this memorandum are being provided to Secret Service and the Office of the United States, both Chicago, and to Region 1, 113th MI Group, Evanston, Ill.

A characterization of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., (DDJ), will be found in the attached appendix pages. Also attached is a characterization of the Nation of Islam, in which reference is made to Muhammad's Mosque Number Two. The sources used in the latter characterization have furnished reliable information in the past.

CONFIDENTIAL

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APPENDIX

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc.

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) as on file with the Secretary of State, for the State of Louisiana, reflects that the [illegible] of Defense and Justice, Inc., is a Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The location and [illegible] office address of its registered office shall be [illegible] Station (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

"This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes:

"To instruct, train, 'teach and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principles of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Louisiana, as well as the constitution and laws of any other state wherein this corporation may operate; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the use, value, and purpose of the ballot and [illegible] to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons [illegible] and responsibilities of good citizenship relative [illegible] and duties of the community to the citizen; to further [illegible] teach, train and educate said persons in the value of [illegible] security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and [illegible] leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property, [illegible] and personal rights of said people and will defend [illegible] by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that [illegible] may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law.'"

CONFIDENTIAL

1

APPENDIX

NATION OF ISLAM, Formerly referred to as the Muslim Cult of Islam, also known as Muhammad's Temples of Islam

In January, 1957, a source advised ELIJAH MUHAMMAD has described his organization on a nationwide basis as the "Nation of Islam" and "Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

On April 29, 1966, a second source advised ELIJAH MUHAMMAD is the national leader of the Nation of Islam (NOI); Muhammad's Temple of Islam No. 2, 5335 South Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, is the national headquarters of the NOI; and in mid-1960 MUHAMMAD and other NOI officials, when referring to MUHAMMAD's organization on a nationwide basis, commenced using either "Mosque" or "Temple" when mentioning one of "Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

The NOI is an all-Negro organization which was originally organized in 1930 in Detroit, Michigan. MUHAMMAD claims to have been selected by Allah, the Supreme Being to lead the so-called Negro race out of slavery in the wilderness of North America by establishing an independent black nation in the United States. Members following MUHAMMAD's teachings and his interpretation of the "Koran" believe there is no such thing as a Negro; that the so-called Negroes are slaves of the white race, referred to as "white devils," in the United States; and that the white race, because of its exploitation of the so-called Negroes, must and will be destroyed in the approaching "War of Armageddon."

In the past, officials and members of the NOI, including MUHAMMAD, have refused to register under the provisions of the Selective Service Acts and have declared that members owe no allegiance to the United States.

On May 5, 1958, the first source advised MUHAMMAD had, upon advice of legal counsel, tempered his personal statements and instructions to his ministers concerning the principles of his organization in order to avoid possible prosecution by the United States government; however, he did not indicate any fundamental changes in the teachings of his organization

On May 2, 1966, a third source advised MUHAMMAD had, early in July, 1958, decided to de-emphasize the religious aspects of the teachings of Islam and to stress the economic benefits to be derived by those Negroes who joined the NOI. This policy change, according to MUHAMMAD, would help him acquire additional followers and create more interest in his programs.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 12/1/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

Via _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-572) (157-1324)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RM

NEGRO YOUTH DISTURBANCE,
HARVEY, ILLINOIS
8/4-5/66
RM

Re Chicago airtel and LHM 8/10/66, captioned as above.

Referenced LHM reported that [redacted]

Liaison contacts with [redacted] and [redacted] during the period 8/9/66 through 10/13/66, regarding stolen guns were unproductive.

b7C
b7D

On 12/1/66, [redacted] and [redacted] advised that investigation [redacted] has been unproductive. No information has been developed to establish the disposition of the guns or to prove or disprove that the DDJ obtained them. None of the guns have been recovered. [redacted] and [redacted] said they would advise the Chicago Office in event any pertinent information comes to the attention of [redacted]

157-2466-178

4 - Bureau (RM)
4 - Chicago
(1 - 157-350) (POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)
(1 - 157-375) (RACE RIOTS)

REC 22

DEC 1 1966

WMP/faj
(8)

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-25-80 BY

CG 157-572
CG 157-1324

Chicago sources have furnished no information regarding the identity of the persons responsible or the disposition of the stolen guns. If any information is developed, the Bureau will be advised.

FBI

Date: 12/2/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-5624)

RE: ~~DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,~~ FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA
RM

Re New Orleans airtel to Bureau, 11/9/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies of self-explanatory letterhead memorandum concerning captioned matter.

Copies of this LHM are being furnished to Secret Service, MIG, and NISO, New Orleans, as well as OSI, Barksdale AFB, La., and the USA, Shreveport, La.

3-Bureau (Encls. 11) (RM)
2-New Orleans

JAP/lrs
(5)

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SERV
DEPT: ISD, CRD, RAO
DATE FORW: REC-53
HOW FORW:
BY:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-25-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana
December 2, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

On November 28, 1966, [redacted] Ferriday, Louisiana, advised that he has heard of no Deacons for Defense and Justice in the Negro community of Ferriday area at this time.

He advised that [redacted] who was interested in organizing such a group in the past, returned from [redacted] Toledo, Ohio, within the past two weeks. He advised [redacted] seemed to have lost all of his radical ideas while in Ohio.

b7C
b7D

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-25-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

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ENCLOSURE

157-2466-179

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 12/12/66

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INC., aka.,
Deacons for Defense and Justice,
Inc.
RM

Re report of SA [redacted] b7C
11/22/66.

It is requested that dissemination of referenced report be held in abeyance as New Orleans is submitting a supplemental report in this matter.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-28-80 BY SP1 [illegible] EX-105

REC 17

157-2466-130

DEC 13 1966

C.D. Wick

ICC GRV 940

3 - Bureau (157-2466) (RM)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290)
DCS:dao
(5)

Approved: DEC 1 1966 Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI (100-442684)(157-2466) 12/9/66

Legat, London (157-102) (P)

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM)
IS - RAM

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. (DDJ)
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

[redacted] b1

[redacted] (C)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2, 1-3
DATE OF REVIEW 12-9-86

3 - Bureau
1 - Paris
1 - Liaison (sent direct)
1 - London
LM:cm
(6)

157-2466

NOT RECORDED
167 DEC 14 1966

61 DEC 19 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (157-4946) DATE: DEC 6

FROM : SAC, WFO (RUC)

SUBJECT: [redacted] b7C
RM

Re Chicago airtel 9/13/66 captioned Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc. - RM and [redacted] - RM. b7C Rebulet 11/3/66 to Legat Hong Kong, cc WFO captioned Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM) - IS - RAM; Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. (DDJ) - RM (organization). Referenced communications requested that subject's passport file be reviewed at the Passport Office, United States Department of State (USDS).

Enclosed for the Bureau, Chicago, and New Orleans, are 14, 8, and 4 copies respectively of an LHM setting forth information contained in subject's passport file. This file was reviewed on 11/21/66, in the Passport Office, USDS, by SA [redacted] b7C

Copies of subject's passport photograph are being made and when received will be forwarded to Chicago and New Orleans by routing slip.

(5) - Bureau (Enc. 14)
(1 - 157-2466) (DDJ) 157-2466
(1 - 100-442684) (RAM)
4 - Chicago (157-840) (ENC. 8) (RM)
(1 - 157-572) (DDJ)
(1 - 157-397) (RAM)
4 - New Orleans (157-5290) (Enc. 4) (RM)
(1 - 157-3290) (DDJ)
(1 -) (RAM)
3 - WFO (157-801)
(1 - 157-794) (DDJ)
(1 - 157-461) (RAM)

NOT RECORDED
100 DEC 8 1966

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-28-80 BY SP1 [illegible]

JAC:rld
(16)

1 ENCLOSURE

4-750 (2-7-79)

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FBI/DOJ

CONFIDENTIAL

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-442684) 12/14/66
(157-2466)

LEGAT, PARIS (157-9) (RUC)

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM)
IS - RAM

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. (DDJ)
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

Re Legat, London, letter to Bureau 12/9/66.

[redacted] b1

In the event any information is received, the Bureau will be advised.

5 - Bureau
(1 - Liaison Section)
1 - Legat, London (157-102, Info.) (sent direct)
1 - Paris
NEP:eim
(7)

157-2466-

NOT RECORDED
126 DEC 20 1966

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 2L/14 7-2166
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4/2 1.3
DATE OF REVIEW 12-14-86

70 DEC 27 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

Director, FBI (100-442684)(157-2466) 12/21/66

Legat, London (157-102) (P)

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM)
IS - RAM

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. (DDJ)
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

ReLonlet 12/9/66. (U)

[redacted] b1 (S)

3 - Bureau
1 - Liaison (sent direct)
1 - Paris (sent direct)
1 - London
LM:vw
(6)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 Sal fl 7-28-80
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2, 4.2 b1 L3
DATE OF REVIEW 12-21-86

157-2466

62 JAN 91967

SECRET

NOT RECORDED

CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI (100-442684)(157-2466) - 1/5/67

Legat, London (157-102) (RUC)

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM)
IS - RAM

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. (DDJ)
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

Re London letter 12/21/66. (U)

[redacted] b1 (C)

4 - Bureau
1 - Liaison (sent direct)
1 - London
LM:vw
(6)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gal/fa 7-25-80
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4, 2 1.3
DATE OF REVIEW 1-5-87

157-2466 -
NOT RECORDED
102 JAN 10 1967

61 JAN 16 1967

CONFIDENTIAL

FD-36 (Rev 5-22-64)

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in CONFIDENTIAL
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (C)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RM (ORGANIZATION)
(Chicago 157-572) (P)

[redacted] aka
RM
(Chicago 157-1273) (C)
(Chicago 100-35303)

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.
DATE OF REVIEW 12-19-86

Enclosed to the Bureau is an original and ten copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) regarding [redacted] a reported member of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ). b7C

The LHM is classified confidential because information reported from [redacted] (C) b1 reasonably result in the identification of confidential informants of continuing value and compromise their future effectiveness.

The confidential informants furnishing information in the LHM are as follows:

REC-23

1st Source (Former)

EX-101

[redacted] b1

3 - Bureau (Encls 11) (RM)
3 - Chicago

WMP:jeo
(6)

12/27/66

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved: Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per

60 JAN 3 1967

4-750 (2-7-79)

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FBI/D

CG 157-572
CG 157-1273
CG 100-35303

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

(d)

b1

[redacted]

(c)

[redacted]

(c)

Results above negative contacts reported in this LHM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CG 157-572
CG 157-1273
CG 100-35303

CONFIDENTIAL

One copy each of this LHM has been disseminated locally to Secret Service, Chicago, Illinois, and Region I, 113th MI Group, Evanston, Illinois.

The files of the Chicago Division contain insufficient information to characterize the organization Protest at the Polls.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Chicago, Illinois
December 19, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. CG 157-572
CG 157-1273
CG 100-35303

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTER
(ORGANIZATION)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

[redacted]
RACIAL MATTER b7C

b1

[redacted] reported that during the period June 24 to 27, 1966, Ernest Thomas, Regional Vice-President and Organizer of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) was seen with a civil rights march from Memphis, Tennessee, to Jackson, Mississippi.

[redacted] b1

(C)

Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) is characterized in the attached appendix pages.

I. BACKGROUND

b1
b7

[redacted] that [redacted] is believed to reside in the Hyde Park area of Chicago, Illinois. He claims to be a public relations man. He talks big, "puffs" himself up and is a name dropper and a "gasser."

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 SCL / fr 7-28-80
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 0.2
DATE OF REVIEW 12-19-86

CONFIDENTIAL
~~Group 1~~
~~Excluded from Automatic Downgrading and Declassification~~

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE

4-750 (2-7-79)

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FBI/DOJ

II. CONNECTIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY (CP)

[redacted] (C) b1

[redacted] (C) b1

[redacted] (C) b1

Confidential sources, who have furnished reliable information in the past and who are familiar with some phases of CP and/or CP front group activity in the Chicago, Illinois, area, advised during October or November, 1966, that they knew of no subversive activity on the part of [redacted]. b7C

III. OTHER ACTIVITIES

[redacted] (C) b1

The African-American Heritage Association, formerly known as Afro-American Heritage Association, is characterized in the attached appendix pages. The sources characterizing this organization have furnished reliable information in the past.

1-750 (2-7-79)

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FBI/DOJ

[redacted] b7C

On May 14, 1965, [redacted] advised the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that the organization ACT would sponsor a parade and rally on May 15, 1965, in support of Lucy Jean Lewis, a Negro female who was running for Alderman in Chicago against a white candidate. The parade was to begin at 6:30 p.m. on May 15, and was to end with a rally at Garfield Park, Homan and Madison, Chicago, Illinois. b7C b7D

[redacted] advised the Chicago Office of the FBI on May 15, 1965, that approximately 250 persons associated with ACT and other civil rights organizations participated in the above parade. b7C b7D

[redacted] b7C

It is publicly known that the organization ACT is a militant civil rights organization in the Chicago, Illinois, area.

[redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] that a constitutional conference of the organization known as Protest at the Polls, Post Office Box 6133, Chicago, Illinois, was held on November 9, 1963, at the Metropolitan Community Church, 41st Street and South Parkway. b1 (C)

Re: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b7C

It was announced that the meeting was held to adopt a constitution and to elect officers. It was indicated the organization was being formed for the sole purpose of soliciting candidates for public office who are sympathetic to the cause of the Negroes and to organize the voters to support and elect these candidates. [redacted] b7C

[redacted] b1

[redacted] that a new (C) Negro political action group known as Protest at the Polls held its constitutional meeting on November 9, 1963, at the Metropolitan Community Church, 4100 South Park. [redacted] b7C

[redacted] SHOULD BE CONSIDERED POSSIBLY ARMED AND DANGEROUS AS HE WAS REPORTED TO BE ARMED [redacted] b7C

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b7C

APPENDIX

1

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED, aka DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) as on file with the Secretary of State, for the State of Louisiana, reflects that the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated is a Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The location and business office address of its registered office shall be Amos Service Station (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

"This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes:

To instruct, train, "teach and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principals of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Louisiana, as well as the constitution and laws of any other State wherein this corporation may operate; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the use, value and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen: To further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law."

Re: BEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b7C

1

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION
Formerly known as Afro-American Heritage Association

A source advised on May 11, 1966, that the African American Heritage Association (AAHA) with headquarters at 06 East 43rd Street, Chicago, Illinois, was known as the Afro-American Heritage Association until February, 1961. It was founded by ISHMAEL FLORY around 1958 and incorporated in the State of Illinois as a non-profit organization. [illegible] ostensibly for the purpose of teaching African history [illegible] culture to American Negroes. AAHA is strongly influenced by the Communist Party (CP) of Illinois. It is reported [illegible] both communist and non-communist members, and [illegible] Negro nationalistic tendencies. This organization follows CP policy on some issues and opposes CP policy on others; for example, the CP rejects the concept of Afro-American as a reference term to the American Negro and rejects aspects of nationalism, both of which are reflected in the AAHA program. FLORY is a member of the CP of Illinois and theoretically under the discipline of the CP. He is the guiding force in AAHA and controls policy and decisions in AAHA.

CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT, Chairman, CP of Illinois, is a friend of ISHMAEL FLORY. LIGHTFOOT and other CP representatives occasionally are featured at AAHA affairs.

A second source advised on May 11, 1966, that in 1962 the CP worked with FLORY to organize AAHA chapters under the leadership of CP members. The aim of this program included the reactivation of ex-CP members and recruitment of new CP members. This program was never successful and became defunct in 1963.

Since 1963, the South Side area of the CP of Illinois has been regularly holding CP meetings at AAHA headquarters. Many South Side CP members currently are members of AAHA and participate in AAHA affairs. The South Side CP groups cooperate in some AAHA affairs, especially in affairs dealing with the Negro rights movement.

CONFIDENTIAL

FD-36 (Rev. 1-20-64)

FBI

Date: 12/23/66

Transmit the following in TOP SECRET
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-4946)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-5290)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2, 4, 2
DATE OF REVIEW 12-23-[illegible]

SUBJECT: [redacted] b7C
RM

Re: New York airtel to Bureau, 9/27/66.
Bureau letter to New Orleans, 10/[illegible]/66.
Chicago letter to New Orleans, 10/28/66.
WFO letter to Bureau, 12/6/66.
New Orleans airtel to Bureau, 10/12/66, b7C
captioned "[redacted] OFFICERS OF JACKSON PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE, JONESBORO, LOUISIANA; [redacted] ATTORNEY, JONESBORO, LOUISIANA, [redacted] - VICTIM"
CR

Enclosed for the Bureau are 10 copies of LHM [illegible] suitable for dissemination. Two copies of instant LHM are enclosed for each receiving office.

[redacted] b1

(5) - Bureau (Encs. 10) (RM)
(2) - Legat, London)
3 - Chicago (2: 157-840) (Encs. 2)
(1: 157-572)
[illegible] (2: 157-[redacted] (Encs. 2)
(1: 157-DDJ)
3 - New Orleans (2: 157-5290)
(1: 157-3290)
RDR/emh
(21)

3 - New York (Encs. 2)
(2: 157-1690)
(1: 157-1342)
2 - Seattle (157-[redacted] b7C
2 - Honolulu (157-[redacted]

62 JAN 1 1967

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

TOP SECRET

1-750 (2-7-79)

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FBI/DOJ

157-5290/cac

TOP SECRET

[redacted]

(b)

No copies of the attached letterhead memorandum are being disseminated locally. Extra copies have been prepared and are being retained in New Orleans in the event dissemination is desired on the local level.

BUREAU:

[redacted]

TOP SECRET

NO 157-5290/cac/cs

TOP SECRET

LEADS:

CHICAGO DIVISION:

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1. [redacted] b1

2. Will ascertain if the leaders of any known black power or communist organizations in that area traveled to Europe in the latter part of August and September, 1966.

DETROIT DIVISION:

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN:

Will cover the same leads as set out for Chicago.

HONOLULU DIVISION

AT HONOLULU, HAWAII

1. Will attempt to locate Whirley World Construction Company, West Coast Division, Overseas Construction, and determine if the subject is employed by such a company.

2. If located, will discretely determine if THOMAS employed abroad and the extent of his travel while so employed

TOP SECRET

NO 157-5290/cac/cs

TOP SECRET

NEW YORK DIVISION:

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK:

Will cover the same leads as set out for Chicago.

SEATTLE DIVISION

AT SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Will attempt to locate the Whirly Whirl Construction Company through logical sources and, if located, conduct the same investigation as set out for Honolulu.

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION:

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact confidential sources in an effort to further determine the extent of THOMAS' travels.

TOP SECRET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
December 23, 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

A characterization of the DDJ is attached hereto.

[redacted] advised that Earnest Thomas is not a representative of the National Organization of the DDJ and his title as Northern Regional Vice-President is self-appointed. He stated the National Organization does not sponsor any activity outside of the State of Louisiana unless protection might be requested in an area where racial tension was high and civil rights marchers and demonstrators were in need of assistance from the Louisiana organization of the DDJ. He advised the travels of Thomas in Chicago, Detroit and New York and other localities outside of the State of Louisiana are not made known to the local officers of the organization and no funds are received from Thomas a result of his formation of new chapters.

[redacted]

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 SZW 4 7 2 8
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2 D 4. 2
DATE OF REVIEW 12-23-86

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ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

157-2466

4-750 (2-7-79)

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FBI/DOJ

b7C

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

(C)

[redacted]

b1

[redacted]

(C)

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

A P P E N D I X

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

On June 16, 1966, a confidential source advised that The Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) is an organization set up in Jonesboro, Louisiana, during late 1964. It was incorporated in the State of Louisiana in March of 1965. The purpose of the organization was to provide protection for the Negro people of Jonesboro, and particularly those people participating in civil rights activities in Jonesboro. The original idea for forming this organization was developed when it was believed that some of the members of the Jonesboro police force were members of the Klan in that area and it was felt that these police officers could not be relied upon to provide the necessary protection for the Negro citizens of the community. At that time the DDJ was formed and incorporat

The DDJ is incorporated in the State of Louisiana only, and had not filed papers to do business in any other state.

Ernest Thomas has been traveling around the United States calling himself the Regional Vice President and Northern Director of the DDJ. He has claimed to have set up DDJ chapters in several cities in the United States and has supposedly set these chapters up on a militant basis. These efforts on the part of Ernest Thomas are reportedly entirely on his own and are not supported or condoned by the DDJ of Jonesboro. It is believed that Ernest Thomas has adopted his title because of his former position in the DDJ in Jonesboro, but that all of his activities are strictly on his own behalf. The DDJ headquarters in Jonesboro has reportedly never received any requests for charters from anywhere outside of the State of Louisiana and they could no issue charters outside of the state if they were so requested.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

DATE: 12/[illegible]/66

FROM: SAC, CLEVELAND (157-490)(P)

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka.
RACIAL MATTERS
(OO: New Orleans)

Re Cincinnati teletype [illegible] Cleveland dated 11/16/66, Cleveland teletype [illegible] Bureau and Cincinnati dated 11/18/66 and report of SA [redacted] at New Orleans dated 11/22/66. b7C

Enclosed for the Bureau [illegible] for Cincinnati and New Orleans two (2) [illegible] Memorandum, the contents of which [illegible] pertain to the statements made [illegible] in referenced Cincinnati teletype of [illegible]

For the information o[illegible] and New Orleans, the Cleveland office [illegible] regarding the activities of a [illegible] active at Cleveland, Ohio, [illegible] "United Black Brotherhood, [illegible] Cleveland file #157-[illegible].

As set forth in [illegible] Bureau in this case, [illegible] organization during the past [illegible]

4 - Bureau (Enc. [illegible])
(1- 157-[illegible])
(1- 100-44259)
2 - Cincinnati (Rm) (Enc. 2)
2 - New Orleans (RM) (Enc. 2)
7 - Cleveland
(1- 157-810)
(1- 157-280)
(1- 100-24040)
[redacted] b1 (C)

TJO/mkb
(15)

ENCLOSURE

REC-62 157-2466-[illegible]

EX-108

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY [illegible]
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2 [illegible]
DATE OF REVIEW 12-30-86

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.
DEPT: ISD, CRD, EAO
DATE FORW: [illegible]
HOW FORW: [illegible]
BY: [illegible]

80 JAN 17 1967

CONFIDENTIAL

CV 157-490

UNCLASSIFIED

[illegible] County Draft Board, Cleveland, [illegible] Forces Induction Center, and have carried [illegible] literature containing pictures of Uncle Sam stating, "[illegible] wants you Nigger" and statements opposing the war in Vietnam and aimed at Negroes. AUSTIN, on his visits to Cleveland, has been in contact with individuals who are [illegible] the United Black Brotherhood (UBB).

Information furnished by Cleveland informants regard[illegible] the activities and speeches of AUSTIN while at Cleveland, Ohio during October, 1966, were furnished to New Orleans and [illegible] been recorded by New Orleans in referenced New Orleans r[illegible].

Although there is no ev[illegible] Deacons as such are active in the Clev[illegible] that members of the UBB have the same [illegible] as HENRY AUSTIN.

Information contained in the [illegible] that in the past, [redacted]

The Cleveland Office at the [illegible] circumspect and be discreet in ini[illegible] with the UBB [redacted]

b7C
b7D

The Cuyahoga County Grand [illegible] on November 15, 1966, against eight [illegible] violations of local laws committed during the [illegible] 5. All but two of these individuals were [illegible] the Cleveland Police Department and [illegible] being requested by the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor [illegible] two missing individuals.

The present picketing by the UBB is [illegible] [redacted] as a reprisal for the a[illegible] indictments. He also stated that this [illegible] that the Negroes should formulate and [illegible] war campaign.

UNCLASSIFIED

1-750 (2-7-79)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☑ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1) and (b)(7)(C) with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

_____

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 157-490

Cleveland, Ohio
December 30, 1966

CLASS. & EXT. BY
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-
DATE OF REVIEW 12-30-86

CONFIDENTIAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

On November 18, 1966, [redacted] advised that HENRY AUSTIN, a member of captioned organization, had made several public appearances in Cleveland, Ohio during the past few weeks, however, he failed to attract much publicity. [redacted] stated that AUSTIN could not have been active at the J.F.K. House in Cleveland, Ohio before arriving in Dayton, Ohio, just prior to November 18, 1966, as the J.F.K. House has been closed for three months. He further advised that AUSTIN [illegible] been known [redacted] to be [illegible] at the J.F.K. House, which he described as a privately-[illegible] operated neighborhood community center which was first opened during the Fall of 1964 and is considered by [redacted] to be a center of black nationalism.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] also stated that the captioned organization is not active at Cleveland, Ohio. He informed that individuals with black nationalist affiliations are known [redacted] to have purchased rifles from stores in the Cleveland, Ohio area in the past.

On December 22, 1966, [redacted] advised that the captioned organization is not active in the Cleveland, Ohio area.

[redacted] b1

that the captioned organization is not in existence in Cleveland, Ohio.

157-2466-152

CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE

[redacted] and is familiar [redacted] b1
with black nationalist activities, furnished the same information.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency, and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

SAC, New Orleans (100-10890) (157-3220)

1 - [illegible]
1 - Shac[illegible]

Director, FBI (100-442834) (157-2466)

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM)
INTERNAL SECURITY - RAM

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. (DOJ)
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

Re NOairtel captioned "[redacted]," dated 12/23/66; Dulet 10/12/66; and Du O-7 dated 1/3/67. b7C

[redacted] b1

For your information there appears to be no reason for submission of referenced airtel and its enclosed letterhead memoranda under individual caption as done. Your communication contains no reference to recommendations for inclusion on the Security Index which would be the basis for submission under individual caption. In addition, all previous investigation in this matter has been conducted under the caption as above set forth. In view of the widespread dissemination of the results of our investigations at the Bureau, use of different titles may cause needless confusion to the recipient agencies.

[redacted] b1

157-2466

3 - Chicago
3 - New York

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2 [illegible]
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 4.2, 2.3
DATE OF REVIEW 6.87

61 JAN 12 1967
(13)

NOT RECORDED
200 JAN 6 1967

CONFIDENTIAL SEE NOTE PAGE 2.

CONFIDENTIAL DETACHED YELLOW

Letter to New Orleans
Re: REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT;
DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
[illegible] (RAM-DOD)

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b1

(c)

NOTE:

[redacted] b1

(c)

CONFIDENTIAL

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

CONFIDENTIAL

(Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-[illegible]465)

SUBJECT: COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR BLACK POWER (CCBP)
RM

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [illegible] 7-28-80
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2, 4.2, 2
DATE OF REVIEW 1-6-87

Re Chicago airtel and LHM dated [illegible], [illegible] as above.

Enclosed [illegible] concerning captioned matter. Copies [illegible] designated as indicated to interested offices for information.

Chicago is [illegible] following [illegible] this group and indiv[illegible] social [illegible] subsequent pertinent information will be provided the Bureau and any interested offices. In individual cases wh[illegible] are known.

8- Bureau ([illegible])
(1- 157-[illegible]) (DE[illegible])
(1- 100-44[illegible]) ([illegible])
(1- 100-4[illegible]) ([illegible])
(1- 100-440855) ([illegible])
(1- 100-441164) ([illegible])
1- Atlanta ([illegible]) (SNO[illegible]) ([illegible])
1- New Orleans ([illegible]) (DE[illegible]) ([illegible])
1- New York ([illegible]) ([illegible]) ([illegible])
10- Chicago
[redacted] (c) b1
(1- 157-[illegible])
(1- 157-303) (ACE)
(1- 100-113[illegible]) ([illegible])
(1- 100-[illegible]) (SNO[illegible])
(1- 100-[illegible]) (D[illegible])
(1- 157-972) (DE[illegible])
JCS:cae ([illegible])

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FILES ADVISED BY SLIP (S) OF [illegible] DATE [illegible]

157-[illegible]466-

CONFIDENTIAL

CARBON COPY

Approved: 20 JAN 1967 Sent [illegible] M Per [illegible]
Special Agent in Charge

to be in possession of firearms, LHM's are being provided to the Bureau and Secret Service locally, under the individual case captions.

[redacted] (c) b1

All are generally familiar with the activities of this group and the individuals associated with it. [redacted] b7D

[redacted] liaison is maintained with [redacted] to insure that the Chicago Office is in possession of pertinent data which may be developed independently by them.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Chicago, Illinois
January [illegible], 1967

157-1465

CONFIDENTIAL

COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)
RACIAL MATTER

Reference is made to Chicago memorandum dated November 22, 1966, under the above caption.

[redacted] b1

Meetings have continued to be held in Chicago, on a periodic basis, of those individuals associated with various local militantly oriented civil rights organizations, under a loosely organized "black power" grouping. The term CCBP has come to be used to designate this group, although no formal organization as such has come into being utilizing this title. The CCBP is not a membership type organization, but is basically composed of individuals of like thinking in relation to the "black power" movement. Groups which are principally involved include ACT, a local civil rights group, the Dareios of Defense and Justice, Inc. (DDJ), the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), as well as several individuals who are known to have been connected with the West Side W. E. B. Du Bois Club in Chicago.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CLASS. & EXT. BY [illegible]
REASON - FCIM, II, 1-2, 4.2, 3
DATE OF REVIEW 1-6-87

CONFIDENTIAL

157-[illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL

COALITION OF UNITED FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)

(Characterizations of the DDJ and the W.E.B. Du Bois Club of Chicago will be found on the attached appendix pages. All sources referred to have furnished reliable information in the past.)

Most prominent among the leadership of the CCBP, as individuals, are Lawrence Landry, ACT Chairman; Frederick Douglas Andrews, Chairman, West Side Branch of ACT; Monroe Sharp, SNCC Chairman, and Eugene "Fats" Crawford, self-proclaimed leader of the Chicago DDJ.

[redacted] b1

(C)

[redacted] b1

(C)

CONFIDENTIAL

COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (C)

These sources have advised of no immediate plans for picketing or demonstrating by the CCBP in the near future.

CONFIDENTIAL

COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
BLACK POWER (CCBP)

Copies of this memorandum are being provided the following:

United States Attorney's Office
Chicago, Illinois

U.S. Secret Service
Chicago, Illinois

Region I, 113th MI Group
Evanston, Illinois

INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CCBP SHOULD BE CONSIDERED POSSIBLY ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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APPENDIX

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc.

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) as on file with the Secretary of State, for the State of Louisiana, reflects that the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., is a Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The location and business office address of its registered office shall be Amos Service Station (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B., Jonesboro, Louisiana.

"This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes:

"To instruct, train, teach and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principles of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Louisiana, as well as the constitution and laws of any other state wherein this corporation may operate; to instruct, teach train and educate said persons in the use, value, and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen; to further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law."

1 APPENDIX CONFIDENTIAL

W.E.B. DU BOIS CLUBS
OF CHICAGO (DCC)

On May 3, 1965, a source advised that on June 30, 1964, a group of young people who attended the founding convention of the W.E.B. DuBois Clubs of America (DCA), met in Chicago and adopted a statement of purpose and constitution forming the DCC as an affiliate of the national DCA.

This source further advised that at a meeting of the Chicago Area of the Midwest Region of the DCA held April 3 1965, the boundary of the Chicago Area was established to include all of Illinois north of Springfield, Illinois, and all of Indiana. At this meeting, TED PEARSON was elected Area Coordinator.

A second source advised on May 9, 1966, that as of May, 1966, TED PEARSON, Chairman of the Youth Club of the Communist Party (CP) of Illinois, continued to be the Chicago Area Coordinator of the DCA, and the official headquarters is located at the PEARSON apartment, 1808 North Cleveland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

The second source advised that there are currently two clubs operating in the Chicago Area, one on the west side and the other on the near north side. The west side club operates a club house known as the West Side Freedom Center at 2908 West Madison Street which is open seven days a week to the teen-agers on the west side.

FD-263 (Rev. 9-17 65)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN		INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
BOSTON	NEW ORLEANS	1/9/67	12/16 - 1/7/66

TITLE OF CASE

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka.

REPORT MADE BY [redacted] b7C

CHARACTER OF CASE

RM

REFERENCE: Report of SA [redacted] b7C dated 11/22/66 at New Orleans.

- RUC -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

INFORMANTS:

[redacted]

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES NOTIFIED

DATE (S) 1/20/67

CC/SSLH 2/20/80

b1

(C)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP; spkl for 7-15-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 1-9-87

Case has been: Pending over one year ☐ Yes ☐ No; Pending prosecution over six months ☐ Yes ☐ No

APPROVED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

157-2466-183 REC

COPIES MADE:

7 - Bureau (157-2466)(RM)

5 - New Orleans (157-3290)(RM)

1 - Boston (157-387)

JAN 11 1967

EX. 102

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.; FBI: ISD, CRD, RAO
Request Recd.	
Date Fwd.	DATE FORW: 1/20/67
How Fwd.	HOW FORW: RFS
By	BY:

Notations

INT. SEC.

CONFIDENTIAL

JAN 23 1967

CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMANTS: (cont'd)

The sources mentioned as being familiar with various aspects of racial matters within the Greater Boston area and as having been contacted in December, 1966, are as follows:

[redacted]

(c)

b1

CONFIDENTIAL

BS 157-387

INFORMANTS: (cont'd)

[redacted]

(c)

b1

ADMINISTRATIVE:

[redacted]

(c)

COVER PAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

CONFIDENTIAL

Report of: [redacted] b7c

Office: BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Date: 1/9/67

Field Office File #: 157-387

Bureau File #: 157-2466

Title: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

Character: RACIAL MATTERS

Synopsis: [redacted] b1

(C)

- RUC -

DETAILS:

[redacted] b1

(C)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 Schiff 7-28-6 CONFIDENTIAL
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2 4, 2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 1-9-87 Included from automatic downgrading and declassification

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BS 157-387

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

b1

[redacted] that as far as he could determine no publicity had been given to SIMS' visit such as distribution of flyers.

[redacted] (c)

The Socialist Workers Party has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[redacted] (c)

CONFIDENTIAL

BS 157-387

[redacted] (C) b1

Sources familiar with various aspects of racial matters in the Greater Boston area, who were contacted in December, 1966, advised that the Deacons of Defense and Justice are not believed to have a chapter in the Greater Boston area at this time.

APPENDIX

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

On June 16, 1966, a confidential source advised that The Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) is an organization set up in Jonesboro, Louisiana, during late 1964. It was incorporated in the State of Louisiana in March of 1965. The purpose of the organization was to provide protection for the Negro people of Jonesboro, and particularly those people participating in civil rights activities in Jonesboro. The original idea for forming this organization was developed when it was believed that some of the members of the Jonesboro police force were members of the Klan in that area and it was felt that these police officers could not be relied upon to provide the necessary protection for the Negro citizens of the community. At that time the DDJ was formed and incorporated.

The DDJ is incorporated in the State of Louisiana only, and had not filed papers to do business in any other state.

ERNEST THOMAS has been traveling around the United States calling himself the Regional Vice-President and Northern Director of the DDJ. He has claimed to have set up DDJ chapters in several cities in the United States and has supposedly set these chapters up on a militant basis. These efforts on the part of ERNEST THOMAS are reportedly entirely on his own and are not supported or condoned by the DDJ of Jonesboro. It is believed that ERNEST THOMAS has adopted his title because of his former position in the DDJ in Jonesboro, but that all of his activities are strictly on his own behalf. The DDJ headquarters in Jonesboro has reportedly never received any requests for charters from anywhere outside of the State of Louisiana and they could not issue charters outside of the state if they were so requested.

CONFIDENTIAL

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X

APPENDIX

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

A source advised on March 13, 1961, that the Socialist Workers Party, Boston, Massachusetts, was formed in the latter part of the 1940's. This source stated that as of July, 1958, this group was the Boston local of the Socialist Workers Party.

A second source stated that as of May 21, 1965, the Socialist Workers Party, Boston, Massachusetts, is the local affiliate of and follows the aims and purposes of the national Socialist Workers Party.

The Socialist Workers Party has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order #10450.

CONFIDENTIAL

Form 1 (Rev. 11-29-61)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Boston, Massachusetts

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

January 9, 1967

Title DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

Character RACIAL MATTERS

Reference Report of SA [redacted] b7C
and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.